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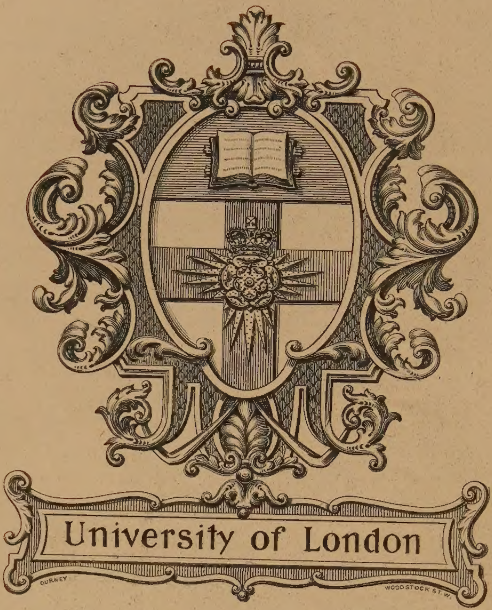
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THE

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES,

AUTHORISED EDITION.

FOURTH SERIES,

COMMENCING WITH THE THIRD SESSION OF THE TWENTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE
UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

---

60 ET 61 VICTORIÆ.

VOLUME L.

COMPRISING THE PERIOD FROM
THE FIRST DAY OF JUNE
TO
THE TWELFTH DAY OF JULY
1897.

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CRETE :—Motion made,— ... ...

"That to-morrow this House do meet at Twelve of the Clock, and, at its rising, do Adjourn till Thursday June 17th, and that, so soon as Government Business is disposed of, Mr. Speaker do Adjourn the House without Question put."—*(First Lord of the Treasury)* 186

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE (SUPPLY) :—Ordered, That the other Government Business have precedence To-morrow of the Committee of Supply.—(*First Lord of the Treasury.*) 205

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Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill :—Considered in Committee. [Progress 2nd June.]

First Schedule,—(Scale and Conditions of Compensation.—Scale.)—

Amendment proposed in Section (3) to leave out the words "as are entitled to damages in cases under," and to insert instead thereof the words "as are specified in"—(*Home Secretary*)—Agreed to ... 206

Amendment proposed in Section (3), after the words "Fatal Accidents Act 1846," to insert the words, "in the Third Schedule of this Act."—*(Sir J. Brunner)* 206

Amendment ruled out of order 207

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Amendment proposed in Section (3), after "1846," to insert the words,—

"as were wholly or in part dependent upon the earnings of the workman at the time of or immediately prior to his death."—*(Home Secretary)*—Agreed to 207

Amendment proposed in Section (3), after "1846; and," to insert the words,—

"provided that the word 'child' shall, if the arbitrator thinks fit, be construed to include an illegitimate child, and the word 'parent' to include the unmarried mother of the workman, who was or were at the time of the workman's death living in the house of the deceased."—*(Mr. Crombie)* 208

Question put, "That those words be there inserted." The Committee divided :—Ayes, 106; Noes, 203.—(Division List, No. 234) ... 211

Amendment proposed, to add the following proviso :—

"Provided that the word 'dependant' shall in no case be construed to include a person of unsound mind."—*(Sir J. Brunner)*—Negatived 211

Amendment proposed to add the following proviso :—

"Provided that in any case in which such dependants are only in part dependant upon such earnings, the minimum of £150 mentioned in Clause 1 (*a* 1) of this schedule shall not apply, but the arbitrator shall decide what part thereof shall be paid to such dependants."—*(Mr. Seton-Karr)*—Withdrawn 211

Amendment proposed, in Section (4), to leave out the words, "If any of the dependants is an infant, his share of compensation may," and to insert the words, "The sum allotted as compensation to any dependant."—*(Mr. Chamberlain)*—Agreed to 217

Amendment made in Section (4), after the word "invested," to insert the words "or otherwise applied."—*(Mr. Parker Smith)* 218

Amendment proposed at the end of Section (4), to insert four new Subsections.—*(Mr. Burt)* 218

Amendment (as amended by the insertion of words proposed by the Home Secretary) agreed to 218

Amendment proposed in Section (5), to leave out the words "at intervals of not less than three months."—*(Sir A. Hickman)*—Agreed to ... 219

Amendment proposed at the end of Section (4), to add :—

"Where any weekly payment has been continued for not less than 12 months the liability therefor may, on the application of either the workman or the employer, be redeemed by the payment of a lump sum, to be settled by arbitration under this Act, but not exceeding 312 times the weekly payments payable at the date of the application."—*(Mr. Chamberlain)* 222

Amendment moved to the proposed Amendment, to leave out the words "has been continued for not less than 12 months," and to insert the words "is current."—*(Mr. Parker Smith)*—Withdrawn ... 230

Amendment moved to the proposed Amendment, to leave out "12" and to insert "6."—*(Mr. Bainbridge)*—Withdrawn 230

Amendment moved to the proposed Amendment, to leave out all the words after the word "Act," to the end.—*(Mr. Pickersgill)* ... 242

Question put, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the proposed Amendment." The Committee divided:—Ayes, 164; Noes, 77.—(Division List, No. 235) 242

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Question put, "That those words be there inserted." The Committee divided:—Ayes, 172; Noes, 78.—(Division List, No. 236) ... 242

Amendment proposed, at the end of Section (4), to insert the words,—

"and, if the incapacity or the continuance of the incapacity to the workman is wholly or partially due to ill health or to any excess or misconduct on his part, the weekly may payment be ended or diminished."—*(Mr. Bainbridge)*—Withdrawn 242

Amendment made in Section (6), to leave out the word "or."—*(Home Secretary)* 243

Further Amendment made in Section (6), after the word "charged," to insert the words "or attached."—*(Home Secretary)* 243

Further Amendment made, at the end of Section (6), to add new section.—*(Lord Advocate)* 243

Amendment proposed—*(Sir F. Powell)*—Withdrawn 244

First schedule, as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill 244

Second Schedule,—(Arbitration) 244

Amendment proposed, in Section (1), after the words "employer and his workmen," to insert the words: "Such committee shall be composed of an equal number of employers' and workmen's representatives."—*(Mr. Pickard)*—Withdrawn 245

Amendment made, in Section (1), after the word "objects," to insert the words, "by notice in writing sent to the other party before the Committee meet to consider."—*(Home Secretary)* 247

Further Amendment made, in Section (1) to leave out the word "that," in order to insert the words, "the arbitration of such."—*(Home Secretary)* 247

Further Amendment made, at the end of Section (1) to insert the words, "or referred by them in their discretion to an arbitrator."—*(Mr. Walton)* 247

Amendment proposed, after the words last inserted, to add—"Any conciliation board consisting of equal numbers of employers and employed, shall be authorised to undertake arbitration under this Act."—*(Sir J. Lubbock)*—Withdrawn 247

Amendment made, after the word "arbitrator," Section (2), to insert the words "or conciliation board."—*(Attorney General)* 247

Amendment proposed in Section (2), to leave out from the words "shall be" to the end of the section, and to insert the words—"determined by suit in the County Court of the district in which the injury complained of was occasioned."—*(Mr. Walton)*—Withdrawn 248

Amendment made in Section (2), after the words, "by a single arbitrator," to insert the words "or conciliation board."—*(Home Secretary)* 248

Further Amendment made in Section (2), after the word "if," to insert the words "in England."—*(Home Secretary)* 248

Further Amendment made, in Section (2), to insert certain words at the end.—*(Sir R. Reid)* 248

Amendment proposed in Section (3), after the word "Judge," to insert the words, "and the costs of such settlement by arbitration."—*(Mr. G. Whiteley)*—Withdrawn 249

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Amendment proposed in Section (3), after the word "shall," to insert the words—"Subject to a right of appeal in every such case by any party to Her Majesty's Court of Appeal."—*(Mr. Gibson Bowles)* 249

Question put, "That those words be there inserted." The Committee proceeded to a Division :—Ayes, 144; Noes, 79.—(Division List, No. 257.) Committee report Progress 251

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Further new Clause proposed,—(Municipal Corporation Bills.)—*(Chancellor of the Exchequer)* 252

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Further new Clause proposed,—(Income Tax—Married Women.)—*(Mr. Bartley)* 253

Clause read a Second time, and ordered to stand part of the Bill. Committee report Progress 254

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Isle of Man (Church Building Acts) Bill [H.L.] :—Second Reading deferred ... 256

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Second Schedule—(Arbitration):—

Amendment proposed, at the end of Section (4), after the words last inserted, to insert the words, "a workman shall be entitled to defend every such appeal *in forma pauperis*."—*(Mr. McKenna)* —Withdrawn 270

Amendment made in Section (4).—*(Mr. Holland)* 270

Amendmemt proposed in Section (4), after the word "court," to insert the words,—

"in any proceedings under this Act no party or other person shall appear or be attended by counsel or solicitor."—*(Sir C. Dilke)* 271

Amendment agreed to, with the addition of the words,—

"except by the leave of the Court or arbitrator, or in any action in the Court of Appeal" 273

Amendment proposed, to leave out Section (5), and to insert the following section:—"(5) Each party shall bear his own costs of the arbitration."—*(Sir C. Dilke.)*—Withdrawn 273

Amendment made, to add certain words at the end of Section (5).—*(Sir R. Reid)* 274

Amendment made, in Section (8), before the first word "Any," to insert the words, "The Secretary of State at the request of."—*(Sir C. Dilke)* 274

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Amendment made, in Section (8), after the word "shall," to insert the words, "subject to Treasury regulations."—*(Home Secretary)* ... 275

Amendment made, in Section (8) to leave out the words, "by the employer," and to insert the words, "out of moneys provided by Parliament."—*(Home Secretary)* 275

Amendment proposed, after Section (8), to insert certain words—*(Mr. E. Robertson.)*—Withdrawn 275

Amendment made, at the end of Section (9), after the word "Judge," to insert certain words.—*(Lord Advocate)* 276

Amendment made, at the end of Section (9), to add:—

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Patent Office Extension (Re-committed) Bill :—Considered in Committee, and reported, without Amendment; Read the Third time, and passed 281

Extraordinary Tithe Bill :—Considered in Committee; Reported without Amendment; Read the Third time, and passed 282

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QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE (COMMEMORATION SERVICE IN ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH) :—Motion made,—

"That, in celebration of the 60th year of Her Majesty's Reign, this House will attend at the Church of St. Margaret, Westminster, on Sunday next, the 20th June?"—*(First Lord of the Treasury)* 289

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Amendment withdrawn 337

Amendment proposed, to reduce the Vote by £1,000—*(Mr. Lloyd-George)* 338

Question put, "That a sum, not exceeding £4,305,910, be granted for the said service. The Committee divided:—Ayes, 37; Noes, 114.—(Division List, No. 238) 349

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"That a sum, not exceeding £549,992, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st of March 1898, for the salaries and expenses of the Department of Science and Art, and of the various establishments connected therewith, including sundry grants in aid."—Withdrawn... 351

2. £7,434, to complete the sum for the National Gallery.—Agreed to 352

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3. £813, to complete the sum for Miscellaneous, Charitable and other Allowances, Great Britain.—Agreed to 373

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The Committee divided:—Ayes, 81; Noes, 138.—(Division List, No. 239) 386

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9. £5,407, to complete the sum for Friendly Societies Registry.—Agreed to 415
10. £9,725, to complete the sum for Lunacy Commission, England.—Agreed to 415
11. £42, to complete the sum for the Mint, including Coinage.—Agreed to 415
12. £9,138, to complete the sum for National Debt Office.—Agreed to 415
13. £14,464, to complete the sum for Public Record Office.—Agreed to 415
14. £4,591, to complete the sum for Public Works Loan Commission.—Agreed to 415
15. £27,167, to complete the sum for Registrar General's Office, England.—Agreed to 415

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QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE.—ADDRESS TO HER MAJESTY:—

Motion made,—

"That an humble Address be presented to Her Majesty, to congratulate Her Majesty on the auspicious completion of the 60th year of Her happy reign, and to assure Her Majesty that this House profoundly shares the great joy with which Her people celebrate the longest, the most prosperous, and the most illustrious reign in their history, joining with them in praying earnestly for the continuance during many years of Her Majesty's life and health."—*(Prime Minister)* 417

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Address agreed to *nemine dissentiente* 421

Resolved:—(1), "That the Address be presented by the Whole House;" (2), "That those of the House who are Privy Councillors ascertain from Her Majesty when it is Her pleasure to receive the Address."—*(Prime Minister)* 422

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Building Feus and Leases (Scotland) Bill:—Order for Second Reading [this day] read, and discharged; Bill withdrawn 440

QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE.—(ADDRESS OF CONGRATULATION TO HER MAJESTY):—Motion made,—

"That an humble Address be presented to Her Majesty, to congratulate Her Majesty on the auspicious completion of the 60th year of Her happy reign; and to assure Her Majesty that this House profoundly shares the great joy with which Her people celebrate the longest, the most prosperous, and the most illustrious reign in their history; joining with them in praying earnestly for the continuance during many years of Her Majesty's life and health."—*(First Lord of the Treasury)* 440

Sir W. Harcourt... ... 443 *Mr. Dillon* 446

Amendment proposed,—

"but this House represents to Her Majesty that this House deems it its duty to place upon record the fact that during the sixty years of Her Majesty's reign Ireland has suffered grievously from famine, depopulation, and poverty, and from the continued suspension of her constitutional liberties, with the result that the Irish people are to-day discontented and disaffected, and are unable to join in the celebration of the sixtieth year of Her Majesty's reign"—*(Mr. J. Redmond)* 449

Question put, "That those words be there added." The House divided:—Ayes, 7; Noes, 436.—(Division List, No. 240) ... 455

Main Question put. The House divided:—Ayes, 459; Noes, 44.—(Division List, No. 241) 455

Motion made, "That the said Address be presented to Her Majesty by the whole House."—*(First Lord of the Treasury)* 455

The House divided:—Ayes, 411; Noes, 41.—(Division List, No. 242) 456

Resolved,—

"That such Members of this House as are of Her Majesty's most Honourable Privy Council do humbly know Her Majesty's pleasure when she will be attended by this House with the said Address."—*(First Lord of the Treasury)* 456

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ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE :—Resolved,—

"That this House at its rising do adjourn till Wednesday next, that on Wednesday the House do meet at a Quarter past Two of the clock, and that Mr. Speaker, so soon as he has reported Her Majesty's Gracious Answer to the Address, do adjourn the House without question put."—*(First Lord of the Treasury)* ... 457

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE (GOVERNMENT BUSINESS) :—Resolved,—

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EDUCATION (SCOTLAND) [GRANTS] :—Considered in Committee.

Resolved,—

"That it is expedient to authorise the payment, out of moneys to be provided by Parliament, (a) of an addition to the grant payable to School Boards in Scotland under the proviso to Section 67 of the Education (Scotland) Act, 1872, by increasing the sum of seven shillings and sixpence therein mentioned by fourpence for every complete penny by which the School Rate therein mentioned exceeds threepence, provided that the said sum as so increased shall not exceed sixteen shillings and sixpence; (b) of an Aid Grant to Voluntary Schools in Scotland not exceeding three shillings per child for the whole number of children in average attendance in those schools."—*(The Lord Advocate)* 457

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Police (Property) Bill :—Read a Second time, and committed 477

Weights and Measures (Metric System) Bill :—Read a Second time, and committed to the Standing Committee on Trade, Etc. 477

Post Office (Sites) Bill :—Read a Second time, and, after short Debate, committed to a Select Committee of five Members, three to be nominated by the House, and two by the Committee of Selection 477

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COMMONS: THURSDAY, 24TH JUNE 1897.

PRIVATE BUSINESS.

Southwark and Vauxhall Water Bill:—

Motion made, "That the Bill be now considered."

Amendment proposed, to leave out the words "now considered," in order to add the words "re-committed to the former Committee."—(*Mr. Stuart*) 485

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Question put, "That Items P and Q (Salaries and Allowances) be reduced by £100 in respect of the Salary of the Agent and Consul General at Zanzibar." The Committee divided:—Ayes, 72; Noes, 124.—(Division List, No. 244) 538

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"That this Bill be now Read a Second time"—*(President, Local Government Board.)* 652

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Sir J. Lubbock 655
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Foreign Prison-Made Goods Bill :—Order read for resuming Adjourned Debate on Question [17th May], "That the Bill be committed to the Standing Committee on Trade, Etc." 667

After short Debate, Motion withdrawn, and Bill committed 670

Berriew School Bill :—Adjourned Debate on Third Reading [24th May] further adjourned 670

Police (Property Bill :—Considered in Committee 671

Clause 1,—(Power to make Orders with respect to Property in Possession of Police) 671

Amendment proposed, to omit from Sub-section (1), the words "sitting at Bow Street."—*(Mr. Pickersgill)* 671

Amendment agreed to; Bill reported; as amended, to be considered To-morrow 672

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Education Endowments (Ireland) Act (1885) Amendment Bill:—Considered in Committee 676

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Question put, "That the Chairman do report Progress, and ask leave to sit again." The Committee divided:—Ayes, 69, Noes, 70.—(Division List, No. 251) 678

Motion made, "That the Chairman do report Progress, and ask leave to sit again."—*(Mr. Knox)* 678

Question put, and agreed to; Committee report Progress 678

Adjournment of the House:—Motion made, "That the House do now adjourn."—*(First Lord of the Treasury)* 681

After short Debate, Question put, "That the House adjourn." The House divided.—Ayes, 133; Noes, 76.—(Division List, No. 252) 681

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Prisons and Convict Establishments (Corporal Punishment)—Question, Mr. J. A. Pease; Answer, Home Secretary ... 736

Queen's Diamond Jubilee—Questions, Mr. Lough, Mr. C. Shaw, Mr. Dalziel, Mr. Gibson Bowles, and Mr. Robertson; Answer, Civil Lord of the Admiralty ... 737

Destruction of Crops (Essex)—Questions, Major Rasch and Mr. Kearley; Answer, First Lord of the Treasury [Mr. Speaker] ... 739

National School Teachers' Pensions, Ireland—Question, Mr. Daly; Answer, Chief Secretary for Ireland ... 740

Science and Art Grants—Question, Mr. Stuart; Answer, Vice President of the Council ... 740

Scottish Prison Officials—Question, Mr. Hedderwick; Answer, Lord Advocate ... 741

Chin Hills Military Operations (Medals)—Question, Captain Norton; Answer, Under Secretary for War ... 741

Wreck (Indian Troopship "Warren Hastings")—Question, Captain Norton; Answer, Under Secretary for War ... 742

Death Duties (Agricultural Rates)—Question, Captain Pretyman; Answer, Chancellor of the Exchequer ... 742

Footpaths in Hyde Park and St. James's Park—Questions, Sir H. Fowler; Answers, First Commissioner of Works ... 743

Local Government Electors—Question, Sir H. Fowler; Answer, Home Secretary ... 743

Allotments in Ireland—Question, Mr. Shee; Answer, Chief Secretary for Ireland ... 743

Deportation of Paupers—Questions, Mr. Daly; Answers, First Lord of the Treasury ... 744

Financial Relations (Great Britain and Ireland)—Question, Sir T. Esmonde; Answer, First Lord of the Treasury ... 744

Government Servants (Minimum Wages)—Question, Captain Norton; Answer, First Lord of the Treasury ... 745

Business of the House—Question, Sir C. Dilke; Answer, First Lord of the Treasury ... 745

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

Finance Bill:—Considered in Committee ... 745

New Clause proposed,—(Tobacco Duties.)—(*Mr. Dillon*) ... 745

Motion made, and Question put, "That the Clause be Read a Second time." The Committee divided:—Ayes, 89; Noes, 289.—(Division List, No. 253) ... 766

New Clause proposed,—(Death Duty.)—(*Captain Pretyman*) ... 766

New Clause proposed,—(Drawback on Coffee.)—(*Mr. Lough*) ... 770

Clause read a Second time, and ordered to stand part of the Bill ... 771

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New Clause proposed,—(Death Duty.)—(*Mr. Gibson Bowles*) 771

Clause withdrawn 772

Amendment proposed to insert, "Sub-section 2 of Section 2 of the Finance Act 1894 is hereby repealed."—(*Mr. Gibson Bowles*) ... 772

Clause withdrawn 773

New Clause proposed.—(*Mr. Gibson Bowles*) 773

Motion made and Question put, "That the Clause be read a Second time."—The Committee divided:—Ayes, 25; Noes, 197.—(Division List, No. 254) 775

New Clause proposed.—(*Mr. Legh*) 776

Clause withdrawn 782

New Clause proposed.—(*Captain Pretyman*) 782

Clause withdrawn 786

New Clause proposed.—(*Lord Advocate*) 786

Clause read a Second time, and ordered to stand part of the Bill. Bill reported, with Amendments.—(292) 786

SUPPLY [25TH JUNE]:—Resolutions reported. Civil Services Estimates, 1897-8. Class II. (Votes 1 to 5); Class IV. (Votes 6 and 7); Class VII. (Vote 8), after Debate, agreed to 786

SUPPLY [18TH JUNE] REPORT:—Consideration of postponed Resolution deferred 792

Berriew School Bill:—Order read, for resuming Adjourned Debate on Question [24th May], "That the Bill be now Read the Third time" 792

Question put. The House divided:—Ayes, 129; Noes, 46.—(Division List, No. 256). Bill read the Third time, and passed 793

Congested Districts (Scotland) Bill:—Considered in Committee 793

Clause 1,—(Appointment of Congested Districts (Scotland) Commissioners) 793

Amendment—(*Mr. Caldwell*)—Withdrawn 793

Amendment proposed after the words "Crofters' Commission," to insert the words,—

"two other persons to be elected by the members of the County Councils of the counties in which the congested districts were situated, under rules and regulations to be supplied by the Secretary for Scotland.—(*Mr. Weir*) ... 795

Question put, "That those words be there inserted." The Committee divided:—Ayes, 53; Noes, 132.—(Division List, No. 257) ... 800

Amendment proposed to leave out the word "two," and to insert the word "four."—(*Mr. Weir*) 800

Word "three" inserted; Clause, as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill... 802

Clause 2,—(Secretary and Officers to be appointed from existing Officers of Government Departments) 803

Amendment proposed in Sub-section (1), to omit the words "and, with the consent of the Treasury, may assign to him an additional salary."—(*Mr. Caldwell*) 803

Amendment withdrawn 805

Amendment made, in Sub-section (2), to leave out "disposal of the Commissioners," and to insert the words "to be annually voted by Parliament."—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)—Clause, as amended, ordered to stand part of Bill 805

Clause 3,—(Constitution of Congested Districts (Scotland) Fund; sums to be carried thereto) 805

Amendment ruled out of order 806

Amendment proposed, to omit from Sub-section (2) the words, "during the said continuance."—(*Mr. Caldwell*) 807

Question put, "That the words 'and during the said continuance,' stand part of the Clause." The Committee divided:—Ayes, 137; Noes, 48.—(Division List, No. 258). Clause ordered to stand part of the Bill... 808

Clause 4,—(Application of Moneys at the disposal of the Commissioners). Amendments made; Progress reported 808

Message from the Queen:—On the Motion "That this House do now adjourn," statement by First Lord of the Treasury, and short Debate 811

COMMONS: WEDNESDAY, 30TH JUNE 1897.

Supply [18th June] Report:—Consideration of postponed Resolution deferred from To-morrow till Monday next 813

Isle of Man (Church Building Acts) Bill [H.L.]:—Second Reading upon Monday next 813

Vehicles (Lights) Bill:—Committee deferred 813

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

Plumbers' Registration Bill:—Motion made and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now considered" 813

Amendment proposed, to leave out the word "now," and at the end of the Question to add the words "upon this day three months"—(*General Laurie*) 813

Mr. Lloyd Morgan ... 815
Mr. Lees Knowles ... 815
Mr. Hobhouse 818
Secretary, Local Government Board 821
Mr. Whittaker 823
Dr. Farquharson ... 827
Mr. Gedge 827
Mr. M. Austin 828
Mr. Bond 828
Mr. Burns 829
Mr. Bucknill 833
Mr. Acland 834
Mr. Wolff 836
Mr. J. Wilson (Govan) ... 836
Mr. J. Ellis 837
Sir J. B. Maple 838
Mr. Holburn 838
Sir J. Leng 839
Mr. Brigg 840
Mr. Wylie 841
Mr. Pickard 842
Mr. Goddard 842
Mr. Warner 843
Mr. Bayley 844
Mr. Muntz 845
Sir W. Foster 845

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Question put, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question." The House divided :—Ayes, 200 ; Noes, 77.—(Division List, No. 259.) Main Question put, and agreed to 846

Bill considered 847

Clause 2,—(Commencement of Act.)

Amendment made, after the word "shall," to insert the words "save where the context otherwise requires"—*(Mr. Lees Knowles)* ... 847

Amendment proposed, to leave out the words "*the first day of January, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight,*" and to insert—

"such date after the first day of August, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight as the Local Government Board may fix by order published in *The London Gazette*"—*(Sir C. Dilke)* 847

Question put, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill." The House divided :—Ayes, 176 ; Noes, 97.—(Division List, No. 260) 848

Amendment proposed, to omit from Sub-section (1) the words "Education and"—*(Mr. Kimber)* 848

Question put, "That the words 'Education and,' stand part of the Bill." The House divided :—Ayes, 153 ; Noes, 123.—(Division List, No. 261) 850

Further proceedings on consideration, as amended, adjourned 851

Factory Acts (Fishing Trade) Bill :—Committee deferred 851

Service Franchise Bill :—Committee deferred 851

Teind Court (Scotland) Bill :—Order for Second Reading read, and discharged ; Bill withdrawn 851

Pensions (Old Age) Bill :—Second Reading deferred 851

Registration of Parliamentary Voters Bill :—Second Reading deferred... ... 851

Cemeteries Rating Bill :—Second Reading deferred 851

Police Pensions and Service Bill :—Second Reading deferred 851

Police Appointment and Promotion Bill :—Second Reading deferred 851

Local Government Act (1894) Amendment (No. 2) Bill :—Second Reading deferred 851

District Councils (Water Supply Facilities) Bill :—Second Reading deferred ... 852

SUPPLY :—Committee deferred 852

WAYS AND MEANS :—Committee deferred 852

Police (Property) Bill :—As amended, considered... 852

Land Transfer Bill [H.L.] :—Second Reading deferred 852

Bicycles (Ireland) Bill :—Second Reading deferred 852

Burial Grounds Loans (Scotland) Bill :—Adjourned Debate on Second Reading [11th May] further adjourned 852

Stipendiary Magistrates' Jurisdiction (Scotland) Bill :—Second Reading deferred 852

Poor Law Bill :—Second Reading deferred... 852

Dangerous Performances Bill :—Committee deferred 852

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School Boards' Expenses Bill:—Second Reading deferred 852

Public Health (Scotland) Bill:—Consideration, as amended (by the Standing Committee) deferred 853

Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill:—Consideration, as amended, deferred 853

Educational Endowments (Ireland) Act (1885) Amendment Bill:—Committee deferred 853

Archdeaconry of London (Additional Endowments) Bill:—Considered in Committee. Clause 1,—Committee report Progress 853

Steam Engines and Boilers (Persons in Charge) Bill:—Adjourned Debate on Motion for Committal to Standing Committee on Trade, Etc. [17th February], further adjourned 853

Court of Criminal Appeal Bill:—Adjourned Debate on Motion for Committal to Select Committee [24th March] further adjourned 853

Railway Return Tickets Bill:—Second Reading deferred 853

Parish Registers Bill:—Second Reading deferred 853

Elementary Education (Continuation Schools) Bill:—Second Reading deferred 853

Trawlers' Licensing Bill:—Second Reading deferred 854

Liquor Traffic Local Veto (Scotland) Bill:—Second Reading deferred ... 854

Rivers Pollution Prevention Bill:—Second Reading deferred 854

Yorkshire Coroners Bill:—Second Reading deferred 854

Parish Councils (Scotland) (Casual Vacancies) Bill:—Second Reading deferred 854

Access to Mountains (Scotland) Bill:—Second Reading deferred 854

Tenant Right in Towns (Ireland) Bill:—Second Reading deferred 854

Municipal Franchise (Ireland) Bill:—Second Reading deferred 854

Poor Law Franchise (Ireland) Bill:—Second Reading deferred 854

Trout Fishing Close Time (Scotland) Bill:—Second Reading deferred ... 854

Justices of the Peace Bill:—Second Reading deferred 855

Local Government (County Council Clerks) Bill:—Second Reading deferred ... 855

Prisoners' Personal Correction Prohibition Bill:—Second Reading deferred ... 855

Working Men's Dwellings Bill [H.L.]:—Second Reading deferred 855

Colonial Solicitors Bill:—Second Reading deferred 855

Ground Game Act (Extension to Copyholders) Bill:—Second Reading deferred 855

Evicted Tenants (Ireland) Bill:—Second Reading deferred 855

Licensing (Scotland) Acts Amendment Bill:—Second Reading deferred ... 855

Congested Districts Board (Ireland) (Compulsory Purchase Powers) Bill:—Second Reading deferred 855

Infant Life Protection Bill [H.L.]:—Second Reading deferred 855

Licensing Exemption (Houses of Parliament) Bill:—Second Reading deferred... 856

County Council (Advances) Bill:—Second Reading deferred 856

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Employers' Liability Act (1880) Amendment (No. 2) Bill:—Second Reading deferred 856

Registration of Firms Bill:—Second Reading deferred 856

Parliamentary Voters (Ireland) Registration Bill:—Second Reading deferred 856

Jurors' Expenses Bill:—Second Reading deferred 856

Unlawful Possession Bill:—Adjourned Debate on Second Reading [29th January] further adjourned 856

Crofters' Holdings (Scotland) Act (1886) Amendment Bill:—Second Reading deferred 856

School Board Electorate (Scotland) Bill:—Second Reading deferred 856

COMMONS: THURSDAY, 1st JULY 1897.

PRIVATE BUSINESS.

Belfast Water Bill:—After short Debate, read a Second time, and committed ... 857

QUESTIONS.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (SCOTLAND)—Question, Mr. Edmund Robertson; Answer, Lord Advocate 858

CLONES POST OFFICE—Question, Mr. Macaleese; Answer, Secretary to the Treasury 859

PAUPER PATIENTS (COUNTY ASYLUMS)—Question, Mr. Caldwell; Answer, Home Secretary 859

BRENNAN TORPEDO—Question, Mr. Caldwell; Answer, Financial Secretary to the War Office 860

PARISH COUNCILS (SCOTLAND)—Question, Mr. Caldwell; Answer, Secretary to the Treasury 860

MACHINE GUNS—Question, Mr. Caldwell; Answer, Financial Secretary to the War Office 860

SCIENCE AND ART SCHOOLS, NANTWICH—Question, Mr. Tollemache; Answer, Secretary to the Treasury 861

STREET DISTURBANCE, DUBLIN—Question, Mr. Daly; Answer, Chief Secretary for Ireland 861

OUTRAGES AT POONA—Questions, Mr. Heath, Mr. MacNeill, Mr. Davitt, Sir W. Wedderburn, and Mr. Herbert Roberts; Answers, Secretary of State for India, [Mr. Speaker] 862

ILLEGAL TRAWLING—Question, Mr. Caldwell; Answer, First Lord of the Admiralty 865

POSTAL FACILITIES (LEWIS)—Question, Mr. Caldwell; Answer, Secretary to the Treasury... 866

VENTILATION (METROPOLITAN RAILWAYS)—Question, Mr. Caldwell; Answer, President of the Board of Trade 866

QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE—Questions, Mr. Buchanan, Mr. Bolitho, Mr. Gibson Bowles, and Sir Cameron Gull; Answers, Lord Advocate, President of the Local Government Board, Secretary to the Treasury, and Civil Lord of the Admiralty 867

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PRISON SYSTEM (SCOTLAND)—Question Mr. Hedderwick; Answer, Lord Advocate 869
CUSTOMS BOATMEN—Question, Mr. Luttrell; Answer, Secretary to the Treasury 869
DESTRUCTION OF CROPS (ESSEX)—Questions, Mr. Round and Mr. Crilly; Answers, President of the Board of Agriculture 870
LABOURERS' COTTAGES (IRELAND)—Questions, Captain Donelan and Mr. Dillon; Answers, Chief Secretary for Ireland 871
TREASON-FELONY PRISONERS—Questions, Mr. Davitt and Mr. W. Allan; Answers, Home Secretary 871
LOCAL TAXATION ACCOUNT—Question, Sir H. Fowler; Answer, Chancellor of the Exchequer 872
MERSEY DOCKS BILL—Question Mr. Daly; Answer, President of the Board of Agriculture 872
CRETE—Question, Mr. Hedderwick; Answer, Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs 873
FAMINE IN INDIA—Question, Sir Wm. Wedderburn; Answer, Secretary of State for India 873
CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY EDUCATION (IRELAND)—Questions, Mr. Dillon; Answers, First Lord of the Treasury 873
DUKE AND DUCHESS of YORK (VISIT TO IRELAND)—Question, Mr. Johnston; Answer, First Lord of the Treasury 874
SUPPLY (IRISH ESTIMATES)—Question, Mr. J. Morley; Answer, First Lord of the Treasury 875
WRECK OF STEAMSHIP "ADEN"—Question, Mr. Gibson Bowles; Answer, President of the Board of Trade 875
QUEEN AND THE COMMONS—Question, Mr. Bayley; Answer, First Lord of the Treasury 875

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

Education (Scotland) Bill:—Motion made, "That this Bill be now Read a Second time."—*(Lord Advocate)* 876

Amendment proposed, to leave out the word "now," and at the end of the Question to add the words "upon this day three months."—*(Mr. T. Shaw)* 876

Mr. Hedderwick ... ... 883 — *Lord Advocate* 895
Mr. Orr-Ewing ... ... 885 — *Mr. Provand* 907
Mr. Souttar ... ... 886 — *Dr. Clark* 908
Mr. J. A. Campbell ... 888 — *Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman* ... 910
Mr. A. O'Connor ... 892 — *Mr. Wylie* 914
Mr. Haldane ... ... 893 — *Sir R. Reid* 915

Question put, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question." The House divided:—Ayes, 159; Noes, 52.—(Division List, No. 262.) Main Question put, and agreed to. Bill Read a Second time, and committed 916

Congested Districts (Scotland) Bill:—[Progress 29th June.]—Considered in Committee 917

Clause 4,—(Application of Moneys at the Disposal of the Commissioners) 917

Amendment made—*(Mr. Caldwell)*. Clause, as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill 918

Clause 5,—(Acquisition, Adaptation, and Disposal of Land. Small Holdings Act, 1892) 918

Amendment proposed—*(Mr. Caldwell)* 919

Question put, "That the words 'and the provisions of,' stand part of the Clause." The Committee divided:—Ayes, 131; Noes, 35.—(Division List, No. 263) 925

Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (1), to leave out "Sub-section four of Section three of the Allotments (Scotland) Act, 1892," and to insert "Section twenty-five of the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1894"—*(Dr. Clark)* 925

Amendment withdrawn 928

Amendments made. Clause, as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill 932

Remaining clauses ordered to stand part of the Bill 934

Police (Property) Bill:—Read the Third time, and passed 934

Foreign Prison-Made Goods Bill:—Committee deferred... 934

Finance Bill:—As amended, considered 934

New clause proposed,—(Packages of Tobacco for the purpose of Drawback, Exportation, or Removal.)—*(Chancellor of the Exchequer)* ... 934

Clause Read the First and Second time, and ordered to stand part of the Bill... 935

Metropolitan Water Companies Bill:—Committee deferred 935

POST OFFICE (SITES) [EXPENSES]:—Considered in Committee 935

Motion made,—

"That it is expedient to authorise the payment, out of moneys to be provided by Parliament, of all sums payable by the Postmaster General under any Act of the present Session to enable Her Majesty's Postmaster General to acquire lands for the Public Service, and of all expenses incurred in carrying into effect the provisions of such Act"—*(Chancellor of the Exchequer)* 935

Motion made, "That the Chairman do report Progress, and ask leave to sit again"—*(Mr. Caldwell)* 935

Committee report Progress... 936

Law of Evidence (Criminal Cases) Bill:—Committee deferred 936

Metropolitan and other Police Courts Bill:—Read a Third time, and passed ... 936

Land Transfer Bill [H.L.]:—Motion made, "That the Bill be now Read a Second time."—*(Attorney General)* 936

After short debate, Bill Read 2°, and committed to the Standing Committee on Law 944

LORDS: FRIDAY, 2ND JULY 1897.

PRIVATE BUSINESS.

Dublin Corporation Bill:—After short debate, read a Third time, passed, and sent to to the Commons 945

Market Gardeners' Compensation (Scotland) Bill:—Read 2ª, and Committed to a Committee of the Whole House... 947

Poor Law Officers' Superannuation Act (1896) Amendment Bill :—Read 2ª, and Committed to a Committee of the Whole House 948

Extraordinary Tithe Bill :—Considered in Committee; reported without Amendment; and re-committed to the Standing Committee 948

Fisheries Act Amendment Bill [H.L.] :—Read 3ª (according to Order), passed, and sent to the Commons 949

Merchant Shipping (Undermanning) Bill :—Considered in Committee; reported without Amendment; and re-committed to the Standing Committee 949

Provisional Order (Scotland) Bill [H.L.] :—After short Debate, Select Committee named 949

Berriew School Bill :—Brought from the Commons, and Read 1ª.—[No. 140] ... 950

Metropolitan and other Police Courts Bill :—Brought from the Commons, and Read 1ª.—[No. 141.] 950

Police (Property) Bill :—Brought from the Commons, and Read 1ª.—[No. 142.] ... 950

HOUSE OF COMMONS: FRIDAY, 2ND JULY 1897.

QUESTIONS.

IRISH MAIL SERVICE—Questions, Major Jameson and Mr. Macaleese; Answers, Secretary to the Treasury 950
DIVISIONAL COMISSIONER (COUNTY MONAGHAN)—Question, Mr. Daly; Answer, Chief Secretary for Ireland 951
CORONERS' INQUESTS—Question, Mr. Yoxall; Answer, Home Secretary ... 952
POST OFFICE ESTABLISHMENTS—Questions, Mr. Yoxall and Mr. Schwann; Answers, Secretary to the Treasury 952
GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY (IRELAND)—Question, Mr. Macaleese; Answer, Secretary to the Treasury 953
ILLEGAL TRAWLING—Questions, Mr. Hedderwick and Mr. Weir; Answers, First Lord of the Admiralty, Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, and Lord Advocate 954
PATENT LICENCES—Question, Mr. Cawley; Answer, Secretary to the Treasury 954
WICKLOW HARBOUR LOAN—Question, Mr. Plunkett; Answer, Secretary to the Treasury 955
WRECK OF STEAMSHIP "ADEN" (GULF OF ADEN LIGHT)—Question, Sir J. Fergusson; Answer, Secretary to the Treasury 955
POST OFFICE (BRILLEY, HEREFORD)—Question, Mr. Rankin; Answer, Secretary to the Treasury 956
STEAMER COMMUNICATION (HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS, SCOTLAND)—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Secretary to the Treasury 956
DELAGOA BAY RAILWAY—Question, Mr. Brookfield; Answer, Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs 957
SHOOTING VERMIN (SCOTLAND)—Question, Sir Mark Stewart; Answer, Lord Advocate 957
CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURE (SCOTLAND)—Question, Sir Mark Stewart; Answer, President of the Board of Agriculture 958

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OUTRAGES AT POONA—Questions, Colonel Long, Sir Wm. Wedderburn and Sir Wm. Harcourt; Answers, Secretary of State for India 958
ASYLUMS (IRELAND)—Question, Mr. Patrick O'Brien; Answer, Chief Secretary for Ireland 960
WESTMINSTER HALL (STATUARY)—Question, Colonel Welby; Answer, First Commissioner of Works 960
NATIONAL SCHOOLS (IRELAND)—Questions, Mr. Daly, Mr. Dillon, Mr. Murnaghan and Mr. Gibney; Answers, Chief Secretary for Ireland and Secretary to the Treasury 961
IRISH BOARD OF WORKS—Questions, Mr. Daly and Mr. Dillon; Answers, Secretary to the Treasury 964
INDIAN LOANS—Question, Mr. Bayley; Answer, Secretary of State for India 965
EDUCATION ACT (ASSOCIATIONS)—Question, Lord Warkworth; Answer, Vice President of the Council 965
REPORTED DANGEROUS ROCK IN THE ATLANTIC—Question, Mr. Macdona; Answer, First Lord of the Admiralty 966
BOARDING OUT ORDERS—Question, Lord Edmund Talbot; Answer, President of the Local Government Board 966
WRECK (INDIAN TROOPSHIP "WARREN HASTINGS")—Questions, Mr. Wanklyn; Answer, Under Secretary of State for War 967
ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY—Questions, Mr. T. M. Healy; Answers, Chief Secretary for Ireland 967
COUNTY CESS (IRELAND)—Questions, Mr. T. M. Healy; Answers, Attorney General for Ireland 969
SOUTH METROPOLITAN SCHOOL (SUTTON)—Question, Sir Samuel Montagu; Answer, President of the Local Government Board 970
CRETE—Questions, Mr. Flynn and Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; Answers, Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs ... ..., 671
THESSALY—Questions, Mr. Gibson Bowles; Answers, Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs 972
LAND LAW (IRELAND) ACTS—Questions, Mr. J. Morley and Mr. MacNeill; Answers, Chief Secretary for Ireland 973
POSTAL DELIVERY (IRELAND)—Question, Mr. James O'Connor; Answer, Secretary to the Treasury 974
WATERFORD, DUNGARVAN AND LISMORE RAILWAY—Question, Mr. James O'Connor; Answer, Secretary to the Treasury 975
CHANNEL FLEET—Questions, Captain Donelan; Answers. First Lord of the Admiralty 975
PUBLICANS' LICENCES (DUBLIN)—Question, Mr. Patrick O'Brien; Answer, Chief Secretary for Ireland 976
BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE—Questions, Sir C. Dilke, Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir. Wm. Harcourt, Mr. T. M. Healy, Mr. MacNeill, Captain Sinclair, Sir C. Cameron, and Mr. Schwann; Answers, First Lord of the Treasury and President of the Board of Agriculture 977

QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE:—(Commemoration Service in St. Margaret's Church.)

After short Debate, resolved—

"That the thanks of this House be given to the Very Rev. Frederick William Farrar, D.D., Dean of Canterbury, for the sermon preached by him on Sunday, the 20th day of June last, before this House in St. Margaret's Church, Westminster, and that he be desired to print the same; and that Mr. Balfour and Secretary Sir Matthew White Ridley do acquaint him therewith."—*(First Lord of the Treasury)* 979

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

SUPPLY—[Fifteenth Allotted Day]:—Considered in Committee.

Civil Service Estimates, 1897-8.

Class I.—

1. £137,137, to complete the sum for public buildings, parks and public works in Ireland ... 980

Amendment proposed, to reduce the Vote by £150—*(Mr. Dillon)* ... 992

Question put, "That Item B be reduced by £100 in respect of the Charge for the Boundary Wall and Railing in the Queen's College, Belfast. The Committee divided:—Ayes, 70; Noes, 224.—(Division List, No. 264.) Original Question put, and agreed to ... 994

2. £19,928, to complete the sum for Railways, Ireland—Agreed to ... 994

Class IV.—

3. £630,291, to complete the sum for the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland ... 995

Amendment proposed, to reduce the Vote by £4,000.—*(Mr. T. M. Healy)* 997

Question put, "That Item D (Model Schools) be reduced by £4,000." The Committee divided:—Ayes, 42; Noes, 160.—(Division List, No. 265) ... 1001

Vote agreed to ... 1033

5. £1,697, to complete the sum for National Gallery of Ireland.—Agreed to ... 1033

Class II,—

£2,771, to complete the sum for the Household of the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland ... 1034

Original Motion withdrawn ... 1035

6. £3,880, to complete the sum for Public Record Office, Ireland.—Agreed to ... 1035

Resolutions to be reported upon Monday next; Committee to sit again upon Monday next ... 1035

Ways and Means—Committee deferred ... 1035

Bicycles (Ireland) Bill:—Second Reading deferred ... 1036

Burial Grounds Loans (Scotland) Bill:—Adjourned Debate on Second Reading [11th May] further adjourned ... 1036

Stipendiary Magistrates' Jurisdiction (Scotland) Bill:—Second Reading deferred 1036

Poor Law Bill:—Second Reading deferred ... 1036

Dangerous Performances Bill:—Committee deferred ... 1036

School Boards' Expenses Bill:—Second Reading deferred ... 1036

Public Health (Scotland) Bill:—Consideration, as amended (by the Standing Committee), deferred ... 1036

Private Business—Statement by First Lord of the Treasury ... 1036

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LORDS: MONDAY, 5TH JULY 1897.

Merchant Shipping (Exemptions from Pilotage) Bill [H.L.]:—To remove certain exemptions from compulsory pilotage; presented by the Prime Minister, and Read 1ª.—[No. 143] 1037

DISCHARGED PRISONERS' AID SOCIETIES.—*(Earl Stanhope)* 1037

Lord Norton ... ... 1040 *Lord Belper* 1042

Church Patronage Transfers Bill [H.L.]:—Third Reading (which stands appointed for this day) put off 1044

LAND LEGISLATION (IRELAND):—Debate on the Motion to resolve,—

1st. That in the opinion of this House the time has arrived when, in the interests of justice, some compensation should be granted to landowners for the rights of which they have been deprived by the State.

2ndly. That some relief might equitably be afforded to landowners by granting State loans on the same terms as those given to land occupiers, to facilitate the purchase by the landlord of the tenant-right or goodwill of the occupier where he is willing to sell such interest, or for any other purposes sanctioned by Parliament.—*(Lord Inchiquin)*

Resumed (according to Order).—*(Lord Clonbrock)* 1044

Marquess of Londonderry 1050 *Earl of Belmore* ... 1073
Duke of Argyll ... ... 1055 *Lord Inchiquin* 1074
Earl of Mayo ... ... 1061 *Viscount Clifden* 1075
Lord Chancellor of Ireland 1065 *Viscount Midleton* 1076
Lord Castletown... ... 1068 *Secretary of State for War* ... 1079

Motion withdrawn 1083

Mersey Channels Bill:—Read 3ª, with the Amendments; a further Amendment made; Bill passed and returned to the Commons 1083

Market Gardeners' Compensation (Scotland) Bill:—Considered in Committee; reported without Amendment; and re-committed to the Standing Committee ... 1083

Poor Law Officers' Superannuation Act (1896) Amendment Bill:—Committee of the whole House (which stands appointed for this day) put off 1084

COMMONS: MONDAY, 5TH JULY 1897.

NEW WRIT:—For the County of Roscommon (South), *v.* Luke Patrick Hayden, Esquire, deceased.—*(Mr. Patrick O'Brien)* 1084

PRIVATE BUSINESS.

Mersey Dock and Harbour Board Bill [H.L.].—Motion made, "That the Bill be now read the Third time."

Amendment proposed, to leave out the words "now Read the Third time," and to add the words "re-committed to the former Committee."—*(Mr. T. P. O'Connor)* 1084

Mr. W. Field ... ... 1086 *Sir A. Forwood* 1088
President, Board of Agriculture ... ... 1087 *Mr. Warr* 1089
Mr. P. O'Brien ... ... 1088 *Mr. Paulton* 1089

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Motion agreed to 1090

Resolved,—

"That it be an Instruction to the Committee that they do strike out of the Bill all powers in relation to the proposed pier or jetty and other works described in Clause 3, Sub-section (c), of the Bill, and to the passage or runway described in Clause 5 of the Bill, and to the taking of lands and the raising of money for those purposes."—*(Mr. T. P. O'Connor)* 1090

Motion agreed to 1090

Lochearnhead, St. Fillans, and Comrie Railway Bill:—Further consideration postponed 1090

Pilotage Provisional Order Bill:—After short debate, resolved,—

"That all petitions against the Pilotage Provisional Order Bill presented three clear days before the meeting of the Committee on the Bill, be referred to the Committee; that the petitioners praying to be heard by themselves, their counsel or agents, be heard against the Bill, and counsel heard in support of the Bill."—*(Mr. J. W. Lowther)* 1091

Fisheries Acts Amendment Bill [H.L.]:—Read the First time.—(297) 1093

QUESTIONS.

MAGISTRACY (CO. MONAGHAN)—Question, Mr. MacNeill; Answer, Chief Secretary for Ireland 1093

FACTORY ACTS (FISHING INDUSTRY)—Questions, Sir C. Dilke; Answers, Home Secretary 1094

LOCHMADDY WATER SCHEME—Questions, Sir C. Cameron; Answers, Lord Advocate 1095

MUZZLING ORDER (SHEEP DOGS)—Question, Mr. Milbank; Answer, President of the Board of Agriculture 1096

AGRICULTURAL RATING ACT 1896—Questions, Mr. Monckton and Sir T. Esmonde; Answers, President of the Local Government Board and Chancellor of the Exchequer 1097

BANGOR TOWN COMMISSIONERS (CO. DOWN)—Question, Mr. Macaleese; Answer, Chief Secretary for Ireland 1098

NILE EXPEDITION—Question, Sir Bevan Edwards; Answer, Under Secretary for War 1098

PETTY OFFICERS (NAVAL) DROWNED—Questions, Mr. Gilhooly; Answers, Civil Lord of the Admiralty 1099

FAIRS AND MARKET TOLLS (BANTRY CO., CORK)—Question, Mr. Gilhooly; Answer, Chief Secretary for Ireland 1099

POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS (SOMERSET)—Question, Sir A. Acland-Hood; Answer, Secretary to the Treasury 1100

PARCEL POST FACILITIES—Question, Mr. Hazell; Answer, Secretary to the Treasury 1100

COLONIAL TROOPS IN ENGLAND—Question, Sir Howard Vincent; Answer, Under Secretary for War 1101

COMMISSION TO PROFESSIONS—Question, Mr. Hazell; Answer, Secretary of State for the Colonies 1101

DELAGOA BAY—Question, Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; Answer, Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs 1101

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Red Sea Lights—Questions, Sir James Fergusson; Answers, Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs 1102
Education Department Report (School Maintenance) — Question, Viscount Cranborne; Answer, Vice President of the Council 1103
Cattle Carrying Regulations—Questions, Sir A. Forwood; Answers, President of the Board of Agriculture 1103
Charity Lands Trustees—Question, Mr. Baldwin; Answer, Mr. Grant Lawson 1104
Irish Mail Service—Question, Sir T. Esmonde; Answer, Secretary to the Treasury 1105
Jubilee Medals—Questions, Mr. Bartley and Mr. T. M. Healy; Answers, Secretary to the Treasury 1105
Post Office Establishments—Question, Mr. S. Woods; Answer, Secretary to the Treasury 1106
Distributing Offensive Leaflets—Question, Mr. S. Woods; Answer, Home Secretary 1107
Irish Judiciary—Questions, Mr. Serjeant Hemphill and Mr. Davitt; Answers, Chief Secretary for Ireland 1108
Queen's Diamond Jubilee—Questions, Captain Norton, Mr. Patrick O'Brien, Sir Elliott Lees, and Mr. Wootton-Isaacson; Answers, Home Secretary, Chief Secretary for Ireland and Under Secretary for War 1109
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Crete—Question, Mr. Flynn; Answer, Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs 1112
Tokat Massacre—Questions, Mr. Flynn; Answers, Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs 1113
Board Schools (Scotland)—Question, Mr. John Wilson (Falkirk); Answer, Lord Advocate 1113
Chitpur Disturbances—Question, Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; Answer, Secretary of State for India 1113
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Plumbers' Registration Bill—Question, Mr. W. Woodall; Answer, President of the Local Government Board 1115
Postal Facilities (Scotland)—Questions, Mr. Weir; Answers, Secretary to the Treasury 1116
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Outrages at Poona—Question, Sir Edward Gourley; Answer, Secretary of State for India 1118
Plague in India—Questions, Sir William Wedderburn, Sir L. McIver, Mr. Bryn Roberts, and Mr. James Lowther; Answers, Secretary of State for India and First Lord of the Treasury... 1118
Castlebar Post Office—Question, Dr. Ambrose; Answer, Secretary to the Treasury 1123
Wallace Bequest—Question, Dr. Farquharson; Answer, First Lord of the Treasury 1124
Kilkenny Waterworks—Question, Mr. Patrick O'Brien; Answer, First Lord of the Treasury 1124
Destruction of Crops (Essex)—Question, Major Rasch; Answer, President of the Board of Agriculture 1125
Indian Budget—Question, Sir William Wedderburn; Answer, First Lord of the Treasury 1125

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NAVAL WORKS [MONEY] :—Considered in Committee.

Question proposed, "That it is expedient—

(*a*) to make provision for the construction of works and acquisition of land in the United Kingdom and elsewhere, for the purposes of the Royal Navy.

(*b*) to authorise the issue, out of the Consolidated Fund, of such sums, not exceeding in the whole £654,000, as may be required for such purposes; and

(*c*) to authorise the application of the surplus set apart, under Section four of the Naval works Act 1896, to the payment of the expenses of such works."—*(Mr. Austen Chamberlain)* 1126

Resolution agreed to 1127

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill :—As amended, considered ... 1127

Clause 4,—(Compensation to Workmen in case of Bankruptcy of Employer) 1127

New clause proposed,—(Recovery of Damages from Stranger.)—*(Home Secretary)* 1127

Question put, "That the Clause be read a Second time." The House divided :—Ayes, 351 ; Noes, 43.—(Division List, No. 266). Clause read a Second time 1140

New clause proposed—*(Mr. Haldane)* 1147

Question put, "That the Clause be read a Second time." The House divided :—Ayes, 107 ; Noes, 169.—(Division List No. 267) 1153

Clause 1,—(Liability of certain Employers to Workmen for Injuries) ... 1153

Amendment proposed, to leave out paragraph (*b*) of Sub-section (2) of Clause 1, and to insert instead thereof certain other words.—*(Mr. Cripps)*... 1155

Question put, "That the word 'when' stand part of the Bill." The House divided :—Ayes, 150; Noes, 126.—(Division List, No. 268) 1167

Amendment made in paragraph (*b*), to leave out the words "It is decided, as hereafter provided."—(*Home Secretary*) 1167

Amendment proposed, in paragraph (*b*) to leave out the word "personal" —*(Mr. Asquith)* 1168

Question put, "That the word 'personal' stand part of the Bill." The House divided :—Ayes, 209 ; Noes, 123.—(Division List, No. 269). 1175

Other amendments made 1176

Debate adjourned 1184

Isle of Man (Church Building Acts) Bill [H.L.] :—Order for Second Reading read ; Debate adjourned 1184

POST OFFICE (SITES) [EXPENSES] :—Considered in Committee.

Resolved.—

"That it is expedient to authorise the payment, out of moneys to be provided by Parliament, of all sums payable by the Postmaster General under any Act of the present Session to enable Her Majesty's Postmaster General to acquire lands for the public service, and of all expenses incurred in carrying into effect the provisions of such Act."—*(Mr. Hanbury)* 1184

SUPPLY (2ND JULY) :—Resolutions reported. Civil Services Estimates, 1897–8. Class I. (Votes 1 and 2); Class IV. (Votes 3, 4, and 5) ; Class II. (Vote 6)—Agreed to 1185

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SUPPLY [18TH JUNE] REPORT :—Order read for further consideration of postponed Resolution (No. 4). After Debate, Resolution agreed to ... 1187

Finance Bill :—Read the Third time, and passed 1193

Foreign Prison-Made Goods Bill :—Committee deferred 1193

Metropolitan Water Companies Bill :—Committee deferred 1193

Law of Evidence (Criminal Cases) Bill :—Committee deferred 1193

LAND TRANSFER [CONSOLIDATED FUND] :—Resolution considered in Committee; Progress reported 1193

SUPPLY :—Committee deferred 1193

WAYS AND MEANS :—Committee deferred 1193

Bicycles (Ireland) Bill :—Second Reading deferred 1193

Burial Grounds Loans (Scotland) Bill :—Adjourned Debate on Second Reading [11th May] further adjourned 1193

Stipendiary Magistrates' Jurisdiction (Scotland) Bill :—Second Reading deferred 1194

Poor Law Bill :—Second Reading deferred 1194

Dangerous Performances Bill :—Committee deferred 1194

School Boards' Expenses Bill :—Second Reading deferred 1194

Public Health (Scotland) Bill :—Consideration, as amended by the Standing Committee, deferred 1194

Education (Scotland) Bill :—Committee deferred 1194

Congested Districts (Scotland) Bill :—Consideration, as amended, deferred ... 1194

Supreme Court of Judicature (Ireland) Act (1877) Amendment Bill :—Considered in Committee. Clause 1.—Committee report Progress 1194

Educational Endowments (Ireland) Act (1885) Amendment Bill :—Committee deferred 1194

Archdeaconry of London (Additional Endowments) Bill :—Committee deferred 1194

Steam Engines and Boilers (Persons in Charge) Bill :—Adjourned Debate on Motion for Committal to Standing Committee on Trade, Etc. [17th February], further adjourned 1195

Solicitors (Magistracy) Bill :—Second Reading deferred 1195

Tithe Redemption Bill :—Second Reading deferred 1195

Police Pensions and Service Bill :—Second Reading deferred 1195

Police Appointment and Promotion Bill :—Second Reading deferred 1195

Yorkshire Coroners Bill :—Second Reading deferred 1195

Parish Councils (Scotland) (Casual Vacancies) Bill :—Second Reading deferred 1195

Working Men's Dwellings Bill [H.L.] :—Second Reading deferred 1195

Jurors' Expenses Bill :—Second Reading deferred 1195

Rating of Machinery Suspensory Bill :—Order for Second Reading read, and discharged; Bill withdrawn 1195

Idiots' Institutions (Exemption from Rates) Bill :—Second Reading deferred ... 1196

Employers' Liability Act (1880) Amendment Bill :—Second Reading deferred 1196

Railway Return Tickets Bill :—Second Reading deferred 1196

Parish Registers Bill :—Second Reading deferred 1196

Licensing (Scotland) Acts Amendment Bill :—Second Reading deferred ... 1196

Congested Districts Board (Ireland) (Compulsory Purchase Powers) Bill :—Second Reading deferred 1196

Infant Life Protection Bill [H.L.]:—Second Reading deferred 1196
Licensing Exemption (Houses of Parliament) Bill:—Second Reading deferred ... 1196
Crofters' Holdings (Scotland) Act (1886) Amendment Bill:—Second Reading deferred 1196
School Board Electorate (Scotland) Bill:—Second Reading deferred 1196

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NEW PEER:—John Savile Lumley Baron Savile 1197
Extraordinary Tithe Bill:—Reported from the Standing Committee without Amendment 1197
Merchant Shipping (Undermanning) Bill:—Reported from the Standing Committee without Amendment 1197
Market Gardeners' Compensation (Scotland) Bill:—Reported from the Standing Committee without Amendment 1197
Floods Prevention Bill [H.L.]:—Motion made, "That the Bill be now Read a Second time"—*(Lord Thring)* 1197
Lord Heneage 1198
Prime Minister 1201
Earl of Kimberley ... 1202
Lord Chancellor 1202
Earl of Northbrook 1203
Earl Spencer 1204
The House divided:—Contents, 18; Not-Contents, 37.—Resolved in the negative. Bill to be Read 2^a this day three months 1205
Poor Law Officers' Superannuation Act (1896) Amendment Bill:—Considered in Committee; Amendments made; Bill re-committed to the Standing Committee.—[No. 145]... 1205
Finance Bill:—Brought from the Commons, and Read 1^a.—[No. 146] 1205
TURKEY AND GREECE:—
Lord Connemara ... 1206
Prime Minister 1206
Earl of Kimberley 1207

COMMONS: TUESDAY, 6TH JULY 1897.

Parliamentary Franchise (Extension to Women) Bill:—Petition read; short Debate following 1209

QUESTIONS.

PRISON RULES—Questions, Mr. J. A. Pease; Answers, Home Secretary and Financial Secretary to the War Office 1210
ARMY PENSION (OWEN SMITH)—Question, Mr. Young; Answer, Financial Secretary to the War Office 1211
DESTRUCTION OF CROPS (ESSEX)—Question, Major Rasch; Answer, First Commissioner of Works 1212
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FLOODS (CO. KERRY)—Question, Captain Donelan; Answer, Chief Secretary for Ireland 1213
URUGUAY—Question, Mr. Ffrench; Answer, Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs 1213
IRISH LAND COMMISSION—Question, Mr. Macaleese; Answer, Chief Secretary for Ireland 1214
ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY—Question, Mr. Macaleese; Answer, Chief Secretary for Ireland 1215
POST OFFICE BOOK POST REGULATIONS—Questions, Mr. Henniker Heaton; Answers, Secretary to the Treasury 1215
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POSTAL FACILITIES (GULLADUFF, CO. DERRY)—Question, Mr. T. M. Healy; Answer, Secretary to the Treasury 1217
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IRISH TOURIST TRAFFIC—Question, Mr. Carew; Answer, Secretary to the Treasury 1217
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QUEEN'S BENCH CASE—Question, Mr. Lawson Walton; Answer, Attorney General 1224
HOUSE OF COMMONS (DISTINGUISHED STRANGERS)—Question, Mr. Hogan; Answer, First Lord of the Treasury 1224

Inclosure Acts Amendment Bill:—To amend the Inclosure Acts; presented, and Read the First time.—(302) 1225

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill:—Order Read for resuming Adjourned Debate on Amendment to proposed Amendment, on consideration of the Bill, as Amended [5th July].

Clause 1,—(Liability of Certain Employers to Workmen for Injuries) ... 1225

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Amendment, as amended, inserted 1228

Amendment proposed, to leave out paragraph (*c*) of Sub-section (2).—*(Mr. David Thomas)* 1228

Question put, "That the words 'If it is proved that the accident is' stand part of the Bill." The House divided:—Ayes, 201; Noes, 119.—(Division List, No. 270) 1238

Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (3), after the words, "after the happening thereof," to insert the words, "and before the workman has left the employment."—*(Mr. Parker Smith)* 1254

Question put, "That the words 'and before the workman has voluntarily left the employment' be there inserted." The House divided:—Ayes, 196; Noes, 121.—(Division List, No. 271) ... 1257

Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (3), to leave out the word "twelve" ("twelve months") and to insert the word "six."—*(Mr. Wolff)* ... 1257

Question put, "That the word 'twelve,' stand part of the Bill." The House divided:—Ayes, 84; Noes, 158.—(Division List, No. 272). Word "six" inserted 1259

Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (4), after the words "condition of their hiring" to insert:—

"No scheme shall be so certified unless the said scheme has been approved of, as ascertained by ballot vote of a majority of the workmen under that employer, and under rules made by the Registrar as to how, when, and where the said ballot vote should be taken."—*(Mr. Woods)* 1263

Question put, "That those words be there inserted."—The House divided:—Ayes, 108; Noes, 163.—(Division List, No. 273.) ... 1275

Amendment proposed, to add in paragraph (*c*), after the word "hiring" the following words,—

"and no employer shall insist on a workman joining any scheme, or, as a condition of his joining any scheme, require him to withdraw from any friendly society, trade union, or workmen's organisation."—*(Mr. Ascroft)* 1275

Question put, "That those words be there inserted."—The House divided:—Ayes, 108; Noes, 177.—(Division List, No. 274) ... 1277

Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (4), to leave out the words:—

"If the funds under any such scheme are not sufficient to meet the compensation payable thereout the employer shall be liable to make good the amount of compensation which would be payable under this Act."—*(Mr. Wolff)* ... 1277

Debate adjourned 1293

LAND TRANSFER [CONSOLIDATED FUND]:—Considered in Committee. Resolution again proposed and agreed to 1293

Isle of Man (Church Building Acts) Bill [H.L.]:—Adjourned Debate on Second Reading [5th July] further adjourned 1294

Naval Works Bill:—Resolution reported and agreed to; Bill presented and read the First time.—(303) 1294

POST OFFICE (SITES) [EXPENSES]:—Resolution reported, and agreed to ... 1294

Weights and Measures (Metric System) Bill:—Third Reading deferred ... 1294

Foreign Prison-Made Goods Bill:—Committee deferred... 1295

Poor Law Bill:—Second Reading deferred 1295

School Boards' Expenses Bill:—Second Reading deferred 1295

Chaff-Cutting Machines Accidents Bill:—As amended (by the Standing Committee), considered; Bill read the Third time, and passed 1295

Locomotives on Highways Bill:—Consideration as amended (by the Standing Committee), deferred 1295

Archdeaconry of London (Additional Endowments) Bill:—Considered in Committee. Clause 1.—Committee report Progress 1295

Warehousemen's Certificates Bill:—Second Reading deferred 1295

Parliamentary Elections (Mariners' Votes) Bill:—Order for Second Reading read, and discharged; Bill withdrawn 1295

Justices of the Peace Bill:—Second Reading deferred 1295

Local Government (County Council Clerks) Bill:—Second Reading deferred... 1296

Colonial Solicitors Bill:—Second Reading deferred 1296

Employers Liability Act (1880) Amendment (No. 2) Bill:—Second Reading deferred 1296

Police Pensions and Service Bill:—Second Reading deferred 1296

Police Appointment and Promotion Bill:—Second Reading deferred 1296

Yorkshire Coroners Bill:—Read a Second time, and committed for Monday next ... 1296

Licensing (Scotland) Acts Amendment Bill:—Second Reading deferred ... 1296

Congested Districts Board (Ireland) (Compulsory Purchase Powers) Bill:—Second Reading deferred 1296

Infant Life Protection Bill [H.L.]:—Read a Second time, and committed to the Standing Committee on Law, Etc. 1296

Licensing Exemption (Houses of Parliament) Bill:—Second Reading deferred 1296

COMMONS: WEDNESDAY, 7TH JULY 1897.

PETITION (TYPEWRITTEN):—

Mr. Gedge ... ... 1297 *Mr. Speaker* 1297

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

Verminous Persons Bill:—Motion made, "That the Bill be now Read the Third time."—*(Mr. Hazell)* 1298

Amendment proposed, to leave out the words "now Read the Third time," and, at the end of the question, to add the word "re-committed."—*(Mr. James Lowther)* 1298

Sir F. Powell 1301
Mr. Labouchere 1302
Mr. Gibson Bowles ... 1303
Mr. Ascroft 1304
Mr. Hazell 1305

Question put, "That the words 'now read the Third time' stand part of the Question." The House divided:—Ayes, 115; Noes, 34.—(Division List, No. 275.)—Main Question proposed 1306

Mr. Duncombe 1306
Mr. Warner 1306
Under Secretary, Local Government Board... 1307
Mr. Labouchere 1307

Motion made, "That the Question be now put."—*(Mr. Michael Austin)* 1307

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Question put, "That the Question be now put."—The House divided :—Ayes, 68 ; Noes, 82.—(Division List, No. 276) 1307

General Laurie 1307
Mr. Gibson Bowles ... 1308
Mr. Caldwell 1311
Mr. Flynn 1314
Mr. Radcliffe Cooke 1314
Mr. Dillon 1316
[*Mr. Speaker* ... ... 1317]

Question put. The House divided :—Ayes, 135 ; Noes, 82.—(Division List, No. 277.)—Bill read the Third time, and passed 1318

Plumbers' Registration Bill :—Order for further proceeding on Consideration, as amended (by the Standing Committee), read 1318

Clause 3,—(General Council)... 1318

Amendment proposed, in the first paragraph after the word "established," to insert the words "in each county and borough council area in England, Wales, and Scotland."—*(Mr. Brigg)* 1319

Question put, "That those words be there inserted." The House divided :—Ayes, 70 ; Noes, 166.—(Division List, No. 278) ... 1320

Amendment proposed, to leave out all after the word "establishment" to the end of the clause, in order to insert the words "under rules to be made by the Local Government Board."—(*Mr. Warner*) ... 1320

Question put, "That the words from the word 'established,' to the word 'say,' in line 15, inclusive, stand part of the Bill."—The House divided :—Ayes, 199 ; Noes, 99.—(Division List, No. 279)... ... 1326

Amendment proposed, to leave out from Sub-section (1) to the end of the clause, and to insert certain other words.—*(Mr. Whittaker)* ... 1326

Question, "That the words from the word 'say,' to the word 'master,' in line 18, stand part of the Bill," put, and agreed to 1330

Further proceeding on consideration, as amended, adjourned 1330

Locomotives on Highways Bill :—Consideration, as amended (by the Standing Committee), deferred 1330

Parliamentary Franchise (Extension to Women) Bill :—Committee deferred 1331

Sale of Intoxicating Liquors (Ireland) Bill :—Committee deferred 1331

Vehicles (Lights) Bill :—Committee deferred 1331

Factory Acts (Fishing Trade) Bill :—Committee deferred 1331

Service Franchise Bill :—Committee deferred 1331

Archdeaconry of London (Additional Endowments) Bill :—Considered in Committee. Clause 1.—Committee report progress 1331

Court of Criminal Appeal Bill :—Adjourned Debate on Motion for Committal to Select Committee [24th March] further adjourned 1331

Summary Jurisdiction Act (1879) Amendment Bill :—Second Reading deferred 1331

Law of Libel Amendment Bill :—Second Reading deferred 1331

Merchant Shipping Bill :—Second Reading deferred 1331

Pensions (Old Age) Bill :—Second Reading deferred 1332

District Councils (Water Supply Facilities) Bill :—Second Reading deferred ... 1332

SUPPLY :—Committee deferred 1332

WAYS AND MEANS :—Committee deferred 1332

Jurors' Expenses Bill :—Second Reading deferred 1332

Railway Return Tickets Bill :—Second Reading deferred 1332

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Parish Registers Bill :—Second Reading deferred 1332

LAND TRANSFER [CONSOLIDATED FUND] :—Report thereupon deferred ... 1332

Congested Districts Board (Ireland) (Compulsory Purchase Powers) Bill :—Second Reading deferred 1332

Licensing Exemption (Houses of Parliament) Bill :—Second Reading deferred 1332

LORDS: THURSDAY, 8TH JULY 1887.

Volunteers Bill :—Considered in Committee.—

Clause 1,—(Explanation of 26 and 27 Vict. c. 65, ss. 24, 27) 1333

Amendment proposed, to leave out the words, "rule made under that power," and to insert the words, "such rule for securing efficiency."—*(Secretary of State for War)* 1334

Amendment agreed to; Clause, as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill... 1335

Clause 2,—(Termination of Imprisonment)—struck out 1335

Clause 3,—(Short Title)—Clause ordered to stand part of the Bill; Standing Committee negatived.—[No. 150] 1335

Extraordinary Tithe Bill :—Read 3ª, and passed 1335

Market Gardeners' Compensation (Scotland) Bill :—Read 3ª, and passed ... 1336

Municipal Elections (Scotland) Bill [H.L.] :—Read 2ª, and committed 1336

Chaff-Cutting Machines (Accidents) Bill :—Brought from the Commons and Read 1ª.—[No. 151] 1336

Verminous Persons Bill :—Brought from the Commons and Read 1ª.—[No. 152] ... 1337

VOLUNTARY SCHOOLS ASSOCIATIONS :—Questions upon Notice Paper ... 1337

Lord Chancellor... ... 1338 *Lord President* 1339
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DELAGOA BAY ARBITRATION :—Question, Earl of Mayo; Answer, Prime Minister 1340

COMMONS: THURSDAY, 8TH JULY 1897.

PRIVATE BUSINESS.

Dublin Corporation Bill :—Lords' Amendments agreed to 1341

QUESTIONS.

EXPERIMENTS ON LIVING ANIMALS—Question, Mr. J. Ellis; Answer, Under Secretary for the Home Department 1341

QUEEN'S COLLEGES (IRELAND)—Questions, Mr. Lees Knowles; Answers, Secretary to the Treasury 1342

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IRISH LAND COMMISSION—Question, Mr. Flynn; Answer, Chief Secretary for Ireland 1361
NEW HEBRIDES—Question, Mr. Hogan; Answer, Secretary of State for the Colonies 1361
ELECTION OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH (YORKSHIRE)—Question, Mr, Helder; Answer, President of the Local Government Board 1362

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MOROCCO PORTS (CONSULAR CHARGES)—Question, Sir A. Forwood; Answer, Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs 1362
AGRICULTURAL RATING ACT, 1896—Question, Mr. Compton Rickett; Answer, President of the Local Government Board 1363
PEACE NEGOTIATIONS AT CONSTANTINOPLE—Question, Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; Answer, Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs 1364
METROPOLITAN ASYLUMS BOARD (CHILDREN'S COMMITTEE)—Question, Mr. Pickersgill; Answer, President of the Local Government Board ... 1364
POST OFFICE DUTY—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Secretary to the Treasury 1365
QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE MEDAL—Question, Mr. Horniman: Answer, First Lord of the Treasury 1365
ENGINEERING TRADE DISPUTE—Question, Mr. E. Robertson; Answer, President of the Board of Trade 1365
BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE—Questions, Sir Wm. Harcourt and Mr. Robertson; Answers, First Lord of the Treasury and Civil Lord of the Admiralty 1366

Military Manœuvres Bill:—Motion made for leave to introduce.—*(Under Secretary for War)* 1367

Sir H. Campbell Bannerman 1368

Question put, "That leave be given to bring in a Bill to facilitate Military Manœuvres." The House divided:—Ayes, 215; Noes, 39. —(Division List, No. 280); presented accordingly, and Read the First time.—(306) 1369

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill:—Order read, for resuming Adjourned Debate on Amendment proposed [6th July] on Consideration of the Bill, as amended—

Clause 1,—(Liability of certain Employers to Workmen for Injuries) ... 1369

And which Amendment was to leave out the following words from Sub-section (4):—

"If the funds under any such scheme are not sufficient to meet the compensation payable thereout, the employer shall be liable to make good the amount of compensation which would be payable under this Act."—*(Mr. Wolff.)*

Question again proposed, "That the words from the word 'If,' to the word 'payable,' in line 19, both inclusive, stand part of the Bill"... 1371

Question put. The House divided:—Ayes, 278; Noes, 63.—(Division List—No. 281—appended) 1384

Clause 2,—(Sub-contracting)—Amendments made 1392

Clause 3,—(Liability of Contractor for Extraneous Work)—struck out ... 1393

Clause 4,—(Compensation to Workmen in case of Bankruptcy of Employer) —Amendments made 1393

Amendment proposed—*(Mr. Billson)* 1395

Question put, "That those words be there inserted." The House divided:—Ayes, 134; Noes 212.—(Division List, No. 282) ... 1398

Amendment proposed—*(Mr. Ascroft)* 1398

Question put, "That those words be there inserted."—The House divided:—Ayes, 89; Noes, 213.—(Division List, No. 283) ... 1399

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Clause 5,—(Application of Act and Definitions) 1399

Amendment proposed—*(Mr. Walton)* 1402

Question put, "That those words be there inserted." The House divided:—Ayes, 80; Noes, 168.—(Division List, No. 284) ... 1405

Amendment proposed—*(Mr. Foster)* 1408

Question put, "That the word 'Agricultural' be there inserted." The House divided:—Ayes, 90; Noes, 141.—(Division List, No. 285) 1411

Amendment proposed—*(Home Secretary)* 1412

Question put, "That the words 'which exceeds' be there inserted." The House divided:—Ayes, 176; Noes, 111.—(Division List, No. 286) 1416

Amendment made—*(Mr. H. Samuel)* 1428

Question put, "That those words be there inserted." The House divided:—Ayes, 105; Noes, 177.—(Division List, No. 287) ... 1429

Clause 6—(Application to Workmen in employment of Crown).—Amendment ruled out of order 1432

Clause 7,—(Provision as to existing Contracts) 1432

Further proceeding on Consideration, as amended, adjourned 1433

LAND TRANSFER (CONSOLIDATED FUND):—Resolution reported, and agreed to 1433

Weights and Measures (Metric System) Bill:—Read the Third time, and passed 1433

Isle of Man (Church Building Acts) Bill:—Adjourned Debate on Second Reading [5th July] further adjourned 1433

Fisheries Acts Amendment Bill [H.L.]:—Second Reading deferred 1433

Metropolitan Water Companies Bill:—Committee deferred 1433

Law of Evidence (Criminal Cases) Bill:—Committee deferred 1433

Bicycles (Ireland) Bill:—Second Reading deferred 1433

Burial Grounds Loans (Scotland) Bill:—Adjourned Debate on Second Reading [11th May] further adjourned 1434

Dangerous Performances Bill:—Committee deferred 1434

Public Health (Scotland) Bill:—Consideration, as amended by the Standing Committee, deferred 1434

Foreign Prison-Made Goods Bill:—Committee deferred 1434

Poor Law Bill:—Second Reading deferred 1434

School Boards' Expenses Bill:—Second Reading deferred 1434

Education (Scotland) Bill:—Committee deferred 1434

Congested Districts (Scotland) Bill:—Consideration, as amended, deferred ... 1434

Plumbers' Registration Bill:—Further proceeding, on consideration, as amended by Standing Committee, deferred 1434

Locomotives on Highways Bill:—Consideration, as amended by Standing Committee, deferred 1434

Educational Endowments (Ireland) Act (1885) Amendment Bill:—Committee deferred 1434

Archdeaconry of London (Additional Endowments) Bill:—Considered in Committee. Clause 1.—Committee report Progress 1434

Steam Engines and Boilers (Persons in Charge) Bill :—Adjourned Debate on Motion for Committal to Standing Committee on Trade, Etc. [17th February], further adjourned 1435

Cottage Homes Bill :—After short Debate, Order for Second Reading read, and discharged; Bill withdrawn 1435

Prisoners' Personal Correction Prohibition Bill :—Order for Second Reading read, and discharged; Bill withdrawn 1435

Tithe Redemption Bill :—Second Reading deferred 1435

Parish Councils (Scotland) (Casual Vacancies) Bill :—Read a Second time, and committed for Monday next 1436

Working Men's Dwellings Bill [H.L.] :—Second Reading deferred 1436

Inclosure Acts Amendment Bill :—Second Reading deferred 1436

Police Pensions and Service Bill :—Second Reading deferred 1436

Police Appointment and Promotion Bill :—Second Reading deferred 1436

Licensing (Scotland) Acts Amendment Bill :—Second Reading deferred ... 1436

Jurors' Expenses Bill :—Second Reading deferred 1436

Railway Return Tickets Bill :—Second Reading deferred 1436

Parish Registers Bill :—Second Reading deferred 1436

Congested Districts Board (Ireland) (Compulsory Purchase Powers) Bill :—Second Reading deferred 1436

Licensing Exemption (Houses of Parliament) Bill :—Second Reading deferred 1436

LORDS: FRIDAY, 9TH JULY 1897.

PRIVATE BUSINESS.

Lochearnhead, St. Fillans and Comrie Railway Bill :—Read a Second time ... 1437

INDIAN JUDICATURE :—

Lord Stanley of Alderley ... 1437
Lord Chancellor 1441
Prime Minister 1443

Church Patronage Transfers Bill :—After short Debate, Bill Read a Third time; Amendments made; Bill passed, and sent to the Commons 1447

Metropolitan and other Police Courts Bill :—Read 2^a, and committed 1448

Police (Property) Bill :—Bill Read a Second time, and committed 1448

Finance Bill :—Read 2^a; Committee negatived 1449

Lunacy Bill [H.L.] :—Read 2^a, and committed 1450

Municipal Elections (Scotland) Bill [H.L.] :—Considered in Committee; Bill reported without Amendment, and recommitted 1451

Volunteers Bill :—Amendment reported 1451

Weights and Measures (Metric System) Bill :—Brought from the Commons, and Read 1^a—[No. 153] 1451

COMMONS: FRIDAY, 9TH JULY 1897.

QUESTIONS.

COCOA BUTTER—Question, Sir Howard Vincent; Answer, Chancellor of the Exchequer 1451
TEACHERS' (IRELAND) PENSION ACT 1879—Question, Mr. T. M. Healy; Answer, Chancellor of the Exchequer 1452
IRISH MAIL SERVICE—Questions, Mr. T. M. Healy, Sir T. Esmonde, and Mr. J. P. Farrell; Answers, Secretary to the Treasury 1453
TITHE MAP (DENBIGHSHIRE)—Question, Mr. Herbert Roberts; Answer, President of the Local Government Board 1456
QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE—Question, Mr. Kimber; Answer, Secretary to the Treasury 1457
MUZZLING ORDER—Question, Mr. Schwann; Answer, Home Secretary ... 1457
CORK POST OFFICE—Question, Sir T. Esmonde; Answer, Secretary to the Treasury 1457
NAVAL PENSION (MICHAEL SAUNDERS)—Question, Sir T. Esmonde; Answer, Secretary to the Admiralty 1459
BOARD OF TRADE OFFICE (CORK)—Question, Sir T. Esmonde; Answer, President of the Board of Trade 1459
REGULATION OF RAILWAYS ACT, 1889—Question, Mr. Caldwell; Answer, President of the Board of Trade 1460
COUNTY ASYLUMS—Question, Mr. Caldwell; Answer, Home Secretary ... 1460
BRENNAN TORPEDOES—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Under Secretary for War 1461
OUTRAGES AT POONA—Questions, Mr. Weir, Sir M. M. Bhownaggree, and Mr. Swift MacNeill; Answers, Secretary of State for India 1461
IRISH FISHERIES—Question, Mr. Murnaghan; Answer, Chief Secretary for Ireland 1463
KINSALE PIER—Questions, Dr. Commins and Mr. Flynn; Answers, Secretary to the Treasury 1464
CALCUTTA RIOTS—Questions, Mr. Samuel Smith; Answers, Secretary of State for India 1465
GRENADIER GUARDS—Question, Mr. Hozier; Answer, Under Secretary for War 1466
RECRUITS (FOOT GUARDS)—Questions, Mr. Hozier and Dr. Farquharson; Answers, Under Secretary for War 1466
STERLING LOAN (INDIA)—Question, Mr. Herbert Roberts; Answer, Secretary of State for India 1467
EARTHQUAKE (ASSAM)—Question, Mr. Herbert Roberts; Answer, Secretary of State for India 1467
POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK—Question, Mr. Herbert Roberts; Answer, Secretary to the Treasury 1467
WESTPORT GUARDIANS LOAN—Question, Dr. Ambrose; Answer, Secretary to the Treasury 1468
CULLODEN HOUSE—Question, Mr. McLeod; Answer, Lord Advocate ... 1468
CHINA AND GREAT BRITAIN—Questions, Captain Norton and Sir C. Dilke; Answer, Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs 1469
BRITISH ARMY IN INDIA—Question, Captain Pirie; Answer, Secretary of State for India 1469
DISAPPEARANCE OF A TRAVELLER—Question, Mr. Howard; Answer, Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs 1470
CTETE—Questions, Mr. Dillon; Answers, Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs 1470

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WICKLOW HARBOUR—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Secretary to the Treasury 1471
DUBLIN METROPOLITAN POLICE—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Chief Secretary for Ireland 1471
TECHNICAL EDUCATION (IRELAND)—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Chief Secretary for Ireland 1472
FEVER OUTBREAK (BELMULLET UNION)—Questions, Mr. Field and Mr. Crilly; Answers, Chief Secretary for Ireland 1472
TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION (ENGLAND AND IRELAND)—Question, Mr. Macaleese; Answer, Secretary to the Treasury 1473
CAVAN AND LEITRIM LIGHT RAILWAY—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell; Answer, Secretary to the Treasury 1474
ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell; Answer, Chief Secretary for Ireland 1474
POST OFFICE TELEPHONE EXCHANGES—Question, Mr. Provand; Answer, Secretary to the Treasury 1474
OLD AGE PENSIONS—Question, Mr. Rankin; Answer, First Lord of the Treasury 1475
CHAFF-CUTTING MACHINES (ACCIDENTS) BILL—Questions, Mr. Ascroft, Mr. J. Lowther, Sir H. Fowler, and Mr. Parker Smith; Answers, First Lord of the Treasury [Mr. Speaker] 1475
TEACHERS' SUPERANNUATION—Question, Mr. Ascroft; Answer, First Lord of the Treasury 1477
LAND LAW ACTS (IRELAND). ROYAL COMMISSION—Questions, Mr. J. Morley, Mr. T. M. Healy, and Mr. MacNeill; Answers, First Lord of the Treasury and Chief Secretary for Ireland 1477

Ground Game Act (Extension to Copyholders) Bill:—Second Reading upon Wednesday, 21st July 1479

MOTIONS.

Polling Arrangements (Parliamentary Boroughs) Bill:—To amend the law relating to the Arrangement of Polling Districts in Parliamentary Boroughs; presented, and Read the First time.—(307) 1479

Polling Districts (County Councils) Bill:—To make further provision with respect to the Arrangement of Polling Districts for the Election of County Councillors; presented, and Read the First time.—(308) 1479

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

SUPPLY—[SIXTEENTH ALLOTTED DAY]:—Considered in Committee.

CIVIL SERVICE ESTIMATES, 1897–98:—

Class II.

£26,247, to complete the sum for the Office of Public Works in Ireland 1480

Amendment proposed, to reduce the Vote by £1,000.—*(Mr. P. J. Power)* 1497

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Question put, "That a sum, not exceeding £25,247, be granted for the said Service."—The Committee divided :—Ayes, 90; Noes, 177.—(Division List, No. 288) 1497

Amendment proposed, to reduce the Vote by £2,000.—*(Dr. Tanner)* ... 1523

Question, "That a sum, not exceeding £24,247, be granted for the said Service," put, and negatived 1523

Original Question put, and agreed to 1523

Class IV,—

£2,450, to complete the sum for Queen's Colleges in Ireland 1523

Progress reported 1540

WAYS AND MEANS :—Committee deferred 1540

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE :—On the Motion "that this House do now adjourn," Statement by First Lord of the Treasury 1540

LORDS: MONDAY, 12TH JULY 1897.

VISCOUNT DILLON :—Petition Read, and referred to Lord Chancellor ... 1541

LORD CREMORNE (CLAIM TO VOTE FOR REPRESENTATIVE PEERS FOR IRELAND) :—Order made 1541

TITHE RENT CHARGE (IRELAND) :—Address to Her Majesty moved—*(Earl of Belmore)* 1541

Earl of Mayo 1550

Debate adjourned 1552

VOLUNTARY SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION :—*(Lord Wantage)* 1552

Lord Stanmore ... ... 1554 *Earl Spencer* 1567
Bishop of Oxford ... 1560 *Archbishop of Canterbury* ... 1569
Lord Heneage ... ... 1562 *Lord President of the Council* 1570
Bishop of Lincoln ... 1564 *Earl of Kimberley* 1575

Verminous Persons Bill :—Second Reading put off 1579

Patent Office Extension Bill :—Read 2ª, and Committed 1579

Public Offices (Whitehall) Site Bill :—Read 2ª, and Committed 1579

Metropolitan and Other Police Courts Bill :—Considered in Committee; reported without Amendment, and re-committed 1579

Police (Property) Bill :—Considered in Committee; reported without Amendment, and re-committed 1579

Finance Bill :—Read 3ª, and passed 1580

Lunacy Bill [H.L.] :—Committee of the whole House put off 1580

Berriew School Bill :—Considered in Committee; Bill reported without Amendment; Standing Committee negatived 1580

Volunteers Bil :—Third Reading put off 1580

Merchant Shipping (Undermanning) Bill :—To be Read 3ª on Thursday next ... 1580

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COMMONS: MONDAY, 12TH JULY 1897.

ROSSLARE RAILWAY (APOLOGY):—*(Mr. T. M. Healy)* 1580

Mersey Channels Bill:—Lords' Amendments considered, and agreed to 1581

QUESTIONS.

ASHBOURNE BOARD OF GUARDIANS—Question, Sir Wilfrid Lawson; Answer, President of the Local Government Board 1581

EVICTIONS (IRELAND)—Questions, Mr. T. M. Healy; Answers, Chief Secretary for Ireland 1581

POSTAGE RATES—Questions, Mr. Henniker-Heaton; Answers, Secretary to the Treasury 1582

CHESTER MILITARY DISTRICT—Question, Sir Barrington Simeon; Answer, Under Secretary for War 1584

NATIONAL TELEPHONE COMPANY—Question, Mr. Fortescue Flannery; Answer, Secretary to the Treasury 1585

HORSE AND FIELD ARTILLERY—Question, Sir C. Dilke: Answer, Under Secretary for War 1585

PLAGUE BACILLUS (INDIA)—Question, Mr. T. M. Healy; Answer, President of the Local Government Board 1586

MATABELELAND RISING—Question, Mr. Lough; Answer, Secretary of State for the Colonies 1587

TELEGRAPH CHARGES—Questions, Sir J. Leng and Mr. Gibson Bowles; Answers, Secretary to the Treasury 1587

BALLYSHANNON DISPENSARY COMMITTEE—Question, Mr. MacNeill; Answer, Chief Secretary for Ireland 1588

WRECK (INDIAN TROOPSHIP "WARREN HASTINGS")—Questions, Mr. Thornton; Answers, Secretary of State for India 1589

CIVIL BILL COURTS (IRELAND)—Question, Mr. T. M. Healy; Answer, Chief Secretary for Ireland 1589

OUTRAGES AT POONA—Questions, Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett, Mr. Howell, and Mr. MacNeill; Answers, Secretary of State for India 1590

TATE GALLERY OF BRITISH ART—Questions, Dr. Farquharson; Answers, Secretary to the Treasury 1591

ROYAL MARINES—Question, Sir J. Colomb; Answer, First Lord of the Admiralty 1592

CLOUGHOULA NATIONAL SCHOOL (IRELAND)—Questions, Mr. Patrick O'Brien; Answers, Chief Secretary for Ireland, and Secretary to the Treasury ... 1593

STATE OF JHALLAWAR—Question, Mr. Herbert Roberts; Answer, Secretary of State for India 1594

ELECTION LAW—Question, Sir Barrington Simeon; Answer, Home Secretary 1594

ERASMUS SMITH ENDOWMENTS—Question, Mr. T. M. Healy; Answer, Chief Secretary for Ireland 1595

PRISON SYSTEM (SCOTLAND)—Question, Mr. Hedderwick; Answer, Lord Advocate 1595

LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANIES ACT, 1870—Question, Mr. Boulnois; Answer, Secretary to the Treasury 1596

GIBRALTAR (SANITARY WORKS)—Question, Mr. Robertson; Answer, Secretary of State for the Colonies 1596

HORSHAM RURAL DISTRICT JOINT COMMITTEE Question, Mr. Heywood Johnstone; Answer, President of the Local Government Board ... 1596

IRISH MAIL SERVICE—Question, Captain Donelan; Answer, Secretary to the Treasury 1597

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NATIONAL SCHOOLS (IRELAND)—Question, Mr. T. M. Healy; Answer, Chief Secretary for Ireland 1597

QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE—Question, Mr. Aird: Answer, Under Secretary for War 1598

SOUTHWARK AND VAUXHALL WATER COMPANY—Questions, Mr. Causton; Answer, President of the Local Government Board 1598

LAMBETH WATER WORKS COMPANY—Question, Mr. Tritton; Answer, President of the Local Government Board 1599

RECOVERY OF DEBTS (MARRIED WOMEN)—Question, Lord Hugh Cecil; Answer, Attorney General... 1599

WELSH LAND COMMISSION—Question, Mr. Lloyd Morgan; Answer, First Lord of the Treasury 1599

ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL—Questions, Sir Elliott Lees; Answer, First Lord of the Treasury 1600

BRITISH NAVY (GIFT OF IRONCLAD BY CAPE COLONY)—Question, Sir J. Colomb; Answer, First Lord of the Admiralty 1601

WORKMEN (COMPENSATION BILL)—Questions, Mr. Morton; Answers, [Mr. Speaker] 1602

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE—Questions, Sir Wm. Harcourt, Mr. J. Bryce, Viscount Cranborne, and Mr. Parker Smith; Answers, First Lord of the Treasury 1602

Cotton Cloth Factories Bill:—To give power to make regulations with respect to Cotton Cloth Factories; presented and Read the First time.—(310) 1604

Church Patronage Transfers Bill [H.L.]:—Read the First time.—(309) 1604

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill:—As amended, further considered.

Clause 8,—(Commencement of Act and Short Title) 1604

Amendment—(*Mr. J. Wilson*, Falkirk Burghs)—Negatived 1604

First Schedule,—(Scale and Conditions of Compensation—Scale) 1608

Amendments made 1609

Second Schedule,—(Arbitration) 1659

Amendments made. Further proceeding on consideration, as amended, stood adjourned 1675

School Boards' Expenses Bill:—Second Reading deferred 1675

Poor Law Bill:—Second Reading deferred 1675

Stipendiary Magistrates' Jurisdiction (Scotland) Bill:—Second Reading deferred 1675

SUPPLY [9th July]:—Report deferred 1675

Post Office Consolidation Bill [H.L.]:—Committee deferred 1676

Naval Works Bill:—Second Reading deferred 1676

Military Manœuvres Bill:—Second Reading deferred 1676

Isle of Man (Church Building Acts) Bill [H.L.].—Adjourned Debate on Second Reading [5th July] further adjourned 1676

Fisheries Acts Amendment Bill [H.L.].—Second Reading deferred 1676

Metropolitan Water Companies Bill:—Committee deferred 1676

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Bicycles (Ireland) Bill :—Second Reading deferred 1676
Burial Grounds Loans (Scotland) Bill :—Adjourned Debate on Second Reading [11th May] further adjourned 1676
Public Health (Scotland) Bill :—Consideration, as amended (by the Standing Committee), deferred 1676
Foreign Prison-Made Goods Bill :—Committee deferred 1676
Education (Scotland) Bill :—Committee deferred 1677
Congested Districts (Scotland) Bill :—Consideration, as amended, deferred ... 1677
SUPPLY :—Committee deferred 1677
WAYS AND MEANS :—Committee deferred 1677
Locomotives on Highways Bill :—Consideration, as amended (by the Standing Committee), deferred 1677
Supreme Court of Judicature (Ireland) Act (1877) Amendment Bill :—Committee deferred 1677
Sale of Intoxicating Liquors (Ireland) Bill :—Committee deferred 1677
Service Franchise Bill :—Committee deferred 1677
Educational Endowments (Ireland) Act (1885) Amendment Bill :—Committee deferred 1677
Archdeaconry of London (Additional Endowments) Bill :—Considered in Committee; Committee report Progress 1677
Yorkshire Coroners Bill :—Considered in Committee 1678
Clause 2 struck out; Progress reported 1678
Parish Councils (Scotland) (Casual Vacancies) Bill :—Considered in Committee, and reported, without Amendment; Read the Third time, and passed 1679
Steam Engines and Boilers (Persons in Charge) Bill :—Order for resuming Adjourned Debate on Motion for Committal to Standing Committee on Trade, Etc. [17th February], read, and discharged; Bill withdrawn 1679
Highways Bill :—Second Reading deferred 1679
Employers' Liability Act (1880) Amendment Bill :—Second Reading deferred 1679
County Councils (Advances) Bill :—Second Reading deferred 1679
Employers' Liability Act (1880) Amendment (No. 2) Bill :—Second Reading deferred 1679
Local Government (Scotland) Act (1894) Amendment Bill :—Second Reading deferred 1679
Tithe Redemption Bill :—Second Reading deferred 1680
Working Men's Dwellings Bill [H.L.] :—Second Reading deferred 1680
Inclosure Acts Amendment Bill :—Second Reading deferred 1680
Police Pensions and Service Bill :—Second Reading deferred 1680
Police Appointment and Promotion Bill :—Second Reading deferred 1680
Congested Districts Board (Ireland) (Compulsory Purchase Powers) Bill :—Second Reading deferred 1680
Licensing (Scotland) Acts Amendment Bill :—Second Reading deferred ... 1680
Railway Return Tickets Bill :—Second Reading deferred 1680
Parish Registers Bill :—Second Reading deferred 1680
Licensing Exemption (Houses of Parliament) Bill :—Second Reading deferred 1680

END OF VOLUME L.

BILLS DEALT WITH IN VOL. I.

Title of Bill.	*Progress.*
Aberbrothwick Harbour	Royal Assent, June 3.
Accountants	Withdrawn, June 1.
Accountants (Scotland)	Withdrawn, June 1.
Appeal in Certain Civil Matters (Ireland)	Royal Assent, June 3.
Archdeaconry of Cornwall	Royal Assent, June 3.
Archdeaconry of London (Additional Endowments)	In Committee, July 12.
Ashford Urban District Gas	Royal Assent, June 3.
Assam Railways and Trading Company	Royal Assent, June 3.
Belfast Water	Read 2°, July 1.
Berriew School	In Committee, July 12.
Betting Act (1853) Repeal	Read 1°, June 1.
Birmingham, Tame, and Rea District Drainage Board	Royal Assent, June 3.
Bray and Enniskerry Railway (Extension of Time)	Royal Assent, June 3.
Bristol Tramways	Royal Assent, June 3.
Building Feus and Leases (Scotland)	Withdrawn, June 21.
Chaff-cutting Machines (Accidents)	Read 1ª, July 8.
Charing Cross, Euston, and Hampstead Railway	Royal Assent, June 3.
Chichester Corporation Water	Royal Assent, June 3.
Church Patronage Transfers	Read 1°, July 12.
Clackmannan (Alloa and Tillicoultry) Water Supply Provisional Order	Royal Assent, June 3.
Clyde Navigation (Extension of Time)	Royal Assent, June 3.
Congested Districts (Scotland)	Reported as Amended, July 1.
Copyright (Amendment)	Select Committee Nominated, June 1.
Cottage Homes	Withdrawn, July 8.
Cotton Cloth Factories	Read 1°, July 12.
County Council (Advances)	Read 1°, June 3.
Cowes Gas	Royal Assent, June 3.
Craigcrook Mortification	Royal Assent, June 3.
Crichton Royal Institution	Royal Assent, June 3.
Dangerous Performances	In Committee, June 3.
Devonport Water	Royal Assent, June 3.
Dublin Corporation	Lords' Amendments considered and Agreed to, July 8.
Dumfries and Maxwelltown Water	Royal Assent, June 3.
East India Company's Officers' Superannuation	Royal Assent, June 3.
Edinburgh Corporation	Royal Assent, June 3.
Edinburgh University (Transfer of Patronage)	Royal Assent, June 3.
Educational Endowments (Ireland) Act (1885) Amendment	In Committee, June 28.
Education (Scotland)	Read 2°, July 1.
Electric Lighting Acts Amendment	Read 1°, June 1.
Elementary Education Act (1870) Amendment	Royal Assent, June 3.

Title of Bill.	*Progress.*
Elementary Education (Continuation Schools)	Read 1º, June 1.
Epsom Downs Extension Railway	Royal Assent, June 3.
Excise Licences	Read 2ª, June 3.
Extraordinary Tithe	Read 3ª, and Passed, July 8.
Finance	Read 3ª, and Passed, July 12.
Fisheries Acts Amendment	Read 1º, July 5.
Floods Prevention	Second Reading Negatived, July 6.
Foreign Prison-Made Goods	Committed to Committee of Whole House, June 28.
Glasgow Harbour Tunnel Company	Royal Assent, June 3.
Great Eastern Railway (Lowestoft Harbour)	Royal Assent, June 3.
Great Eastern Railway (New Lines)	Royal Assent, June 3.
Great Northern Railway	Royal Assent, June 3.
Great Western Railway (Truro and Newquay)	Royal Assent, June 3.
Huddersfield Corporation	Royal Assent, June 3.
Inclosure Acts Amendment	Read 1º, July 6.
Infant Life Protection	Read 2º, July 6.
Isle of Man (Church Building Acts)	Debate on Second Reading, July 5.
Juries Detention	Returned from Commons with Amendments Agreed to, June 3.
Labour Bureaux	Withdrawn, June 21.
Lancashire, Derbyshire and East Coast Railway	Royal Assent, June 3.
Land Transfer	In Committee, July 6.
Local Government (Aldershot and Farnborough)	Withdrawn, June 28.
Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 1)	Royal Assent, June 3.
Local Government (Scotland) Act (1894) Amendment	Read 1º, June 1.
Lochearnhead, St. Fillans, and Comrie Railway	Read 2ª, July 9.
London and North Western Railway	Royal Assent, June 3.
London and North Western Railway (Wales)	Royal Assent, June 3.
London and South Western Railway (Meon Valley Railway)	Royal Assent, June 3.
London Bank of Australia	Royal Assent, June 3.
London (Clare Market, Strand) Provisional Order	Royal Assent, June 3.
Loughborough Corporation	Royal Assent, June 3.
Lunacy	Read 2ª, and Committed to Committee of Whole House, July 9.
Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire Railway	Royal Assent, June 3.
Market Gardeners' Compensation (Scotland)	Read 3ª, and Passed, July 8.
Mason's Orphanage	Royal Assent, June 3.
Mason University College	Royal Assent, June 3.
Merchant Shipping (Exemptions from Pilotage)	Read 1ª, July 5.
Merchant Shipping (Undermanning)	Reported without Amendment, July 6.
Mersey Channels	Lords' Amendments considered and Agreed to, July 12.
Mersey Dock and Harbour Board	Re-committed to former Committee, July 5.
Metropolitan and Other Police Courts	Re-committed to Standing Committee, July 12.
Metropolitan Police Courts (Holidays)	Royal Assent, June 3.

Title of Bill.	*Progress.*
Metropolitan Water Companies	Read 2°, June 28.
Military Manœuvres	Read 1°, July 8.
Mumbles Railway and Pier (Extension of Time)	Royal Assent, June 3.
Municipal Elections (Scotland)	Re-committed to Standing Committee, July 9.
Naval Works	Read 1°, July 6.
Navy and Marines (Wills) Act (1865) Amendment	Royal Assent, June 3.
Neath Corporation Tramways	Royal Assent, June 3.
Neath Harbour (Extension of Time)	Royal Assent, June 3.
North London Commercial Permanent Building Society	Royal Assent, June 3.
Paisley Waterworks Provisional Order	Royal Assent, June 3.
Parish Councils (Scotland) (Casual Vacancies)	Read 3°, and Passed, July 12.
Parliamentary Elections (Mariners' Votes)	Withdrawn, July 6.
Patent Office Extension (Re-committed)	Read 2ª, and Committed to Committee of Whole House, July 12.
Perth Improvements	Royal Assent, June 3.
Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 2)	Considered as Amended, June 1.
Plumbers' Registration	Considered as Amended, July 7.
Plymouth Corporation	Royal Assent, June 3.
Police Property	Re-committed to Standing Committee, July 12.
Polling Arrangements (County Councils)	Read 1°, July 9.
Polling Arrangements (Parliamentary Boroughs)	Read 1°, July 9.
Poor Law Officers' Superannuation Act (1896) Amendment	Re-committed to Standing Committee, July 6.
Post Office (Sites)	Resolution Reported and Agreed to, July 6.
Preferential Payments in Bankruptcy Act (1888) Amendment	Returned from Commons, with Amendments Agreed to June 3.
Prisoners' Personal Correction Prohibition	Withdrawn, July 8.
Prisons	Withdrawn, June 28.
Provident Life Office	Royal Assent, June 3.
Public Offices (Whitehall Site) (Re-committed)	Read 2°, and Committed to Committee of Whole House, July 12.
Quarter Sessions Jurors (Ireland)	Returned from Commons, with Amendments Agreed to, June 3.
Railway Assessors (Scotland) Superannuation	Royal Assent, June 3.
Railway Clearing House	Debate resumed on Instruction, June 28.
Railway Passengers Assurance	Royal Assent, June 3.
Rating of Machinery Suspensory	Withdrawn, July 5.
Regular and Elders' Widows' Funds	Royal Assent, June 3.
Richmond District Lunatic Asylum	Royal Assent, June 3.
St. Patrick's Park, Dublin	Royal Assent, June 3.
Southwark and Vauxhall Water	Considered, June 24.
Steam Engines and Boilers (Persons in Charge)	Withdrawn, July 12.
Summary Jurisdiction Act (1879) Amendment	Read 1°, June 25.
Sunday	Second Reading Negatived, June 29.

Title of Bill.	*Progress.*
Supreme Court of Judicature (Ireland) Act (1877) Amendment	In Committee, July 5.
Taunton Gas	Royal Assent, June 3.
Teind Court (Scotland)	Withdrawn, June 30.
Torquay Corporation Water	Royal Assent, June 3.
Trusts (Scotland)	Royal Assent, June 3.
Tynemouth Gas	Royal Assent, June 3.
Vaccination (Calf Lymph)	Read 1^{o}, June 3.
Vehicles (Lights)	In Committee, June 28.
Verminous Persons Bill	Read 1^{a}, July 8.
Volunteers	Amendment Reported, July 9.
Weights and Measures (Metric System)	Read 1^{a}, July 9.
Weymouth Gas	Royal Assent, June 3.
Whiting's Patent	Royal Assent, June 3.
Wigan Junction Railways	Royal Assent, June 3.
Workmen (Compensation for Accidents)	Considered as Amended, July 12.
Yorkshire Coroners	In Committee, July 12.

THE

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Authorised Edition)

IN THE

THIRD SESSION OF THE *TWENTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT* OF
THE UNITED KINGDOM OF *GREAT BRITAIN* AND *IRELAND*
APPOINTED TO MEET JANUARY 19, 1897, IN THE SIXTIETH YEAR OF
THE REIGN OF

HER MAJESTY QUEEN VICTORIA.

SIXTH VOLUME OF SESSION 1897.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Tuesday, 1st June 1897.

NEW PEER.

John Wareing, Lord Bishop of Carlisle—Was (in the usual manner) introduced.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (IRELAND).

*LORD MORRIS, who had given notice of the following Motion,—

> "To move to resolve that, in the opinion of this House, similar relief should be extended to Ireland to that given by the Agricultural Act 1896 to England,"

said that, as might possibly have occurred to many of their Lordships, he did not intend to persevere in moving the Resolution of which he had given notice. Since he gave that notice the First Lord of the Treasury in the House of Commons had made a statement of an important and far-reaching character, and one which, as far as he understood it, met substantially the Motion of which he had previously given notice, namely, to extend to Ireland the benefits which had been conferred by the Agricultural Rating Act of 1896 on England. He could not accept that statement as a boon, as it had been described very largely in the Press in England. ["Hear, hear!"] He accepted it as a fair act of justice towards Ireland, which he would have been prepared to prove if it was necessary upon this occasion. While the rules which regulated political economy were said to have been relegated to Saturn or Jupiter, he forgot which, they had still the rules of arithmetic with them, and as long as two and two made four, on the other side of the Channel as well as upon this, he felt perfectly satisfied that he could have demonstrated that Ireland was entitled to the relief asked for. At the same time he was very glad to congratulate the Government upon having made this timely—he might say this prudent concession, to the irritated feeling which undoubtedly prevailed in Ireland amongst all classes with regard to the treatment which Ireland was receiving in this financial question, of which this was but a branch. [" Hear, hear! "] He, therefore, with the permission of the House, would withdraw the Motion of which he had given notice, merely calling attention to one aspect of it. The First Lord of the Treasury, as he understood the principle on which he founded his novel, ingenious, and able plan, took as the great principle of it that the landlords should be relieved of the payment of the rural rates in Ireland, that was from the payment of half the poor rate in most cases, and he should imagine, from the payment of the entire rates in the cases in which the landlords had been in the habit of paying them, namely, in cases of tenancies of £4 and under. The principle was to relieve the landlord from the rural rates, the reason being the apprehension that if by the action of the new administrative bodies to be constituted, extravagance ensued, the landlords would be mulcted. He could not, however, follow why only half the rates should be paid in the case of tenancies at or under £4, where the landlord was at present called upon to pay the whole. That was not, of course, the law when the Poor Law was introduced into Ireland in the first year after the accession of Her Gracious Majesty to the Throne. Not for many years afterwards was it introduced, and the system was introduced as a better mode of collection, at a time when it was thought, and possibly rightly, that the landlord was master of the situation and could increase his rent to cover the rate. He need not say that that time was past. There was no reason now that landlords should be left liable where they had tenancies at or under £4, and that was the case in the most distressed parts of Ireland, in which the landlords had greater difficulty in getting in their rents, namely, in the south and west; otherwise the landlord would certainly be mulcted, if not in the whole, in the half of the whole. So much for the contemplated legislation which his Motion dealt with. As he was on his legs, however, he would like to say a word on the other portion of it, which promised great and important changes in local administration in Ireland. They might have become inevitable from political exigencies, or in order to give similar institutions to the two countries, but at the same time, as one who by birth and by interest was connected with the smaller landed gentry of Ireland, who were in no way represented in the House of Commons, and scarcely represented in that House either, he would say that he looked with some regret on this impending change. He agreed with the First Lord of the Treasury that, taking it all in all, the Grand Jury system had worked fairly well. [" Hear, hear! "] It was administered economically, although it was illogical. In early life he filled the office of grand juror repeatedly, and for twenty-three years at the General Assize Courts he revised and controlled the powers of presentment and the actions of Grand Juries of every county in Ireland. He could, therefore, offer his testimony to the fact that the system worked well, although it was illogical. The smaller gentry, who mainly composed the Grand Juries, were one of the most important bodies in Ireland, they permanently resided in the country, the whole social life of the counties centred round them, they were the largest customers of the local shops, the largest employers of labour, and the patrons and supporters of legitimate sport. [" Hear, hear! "] He hoped that although their privileged power might be taken from them by Act of Parliament, they would not isolate themselves, but would contend for and successfully win on their own merits, their proper places in the new administrative bodies to be constituted in Ireland. [" Hear, hear! "]. With their Lordships' permission he would now withdraw his Motion.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR (Lord HALSBURY) said that the noble Lord need not do so, he could content himself with not moving.

CHURCH PATRONAGE TRANSFERS BILL [H.L.].

Reported from the Standing Committee without Amendment, and to be Read 3ª on Thursday next.

MERSEY CHANNELS BILL.

Reported from the Standing Committee with Amendments; the Report thereof to be received on Thursday next; and Bill to be printed as amended.—[No. 103.]

COPYRIGHT (AMENDMENT) BILL [H.L.].

Select Committee on: The Lords following were named of the Committee:—

V. Knutsford.	L. Thring.
L. Hatherton.	L. Farrer.
L. Tennyson.	L. Welby.
L. Monkswell.	L. Pirbright.
L. Hobhouse.	

The Committee to appoint their own Chairman.

MERCHANT SHIPPING (UNDERMANNING) BILL.

Brought from the Commons; Read 1^a; and to be printed.—[No. 104.]

House Adjourned at Ten Minutes before Five o'Clock, to Thursday next, a Quarter past Ten o'Clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Tuesday, 1st June 1897.

PRIVATE BUSINESS.

PIER AND HARBOUR PROVISIONAL ORDER (No. 2) BILL.

On the consideration of this Bill as amended,

MR. D. CRILLY (Mayo, N.) said that before he moved the rejection of this Bill he desired to draw Mr. Speaker's attention to a matter affecting the privileges of that House. For his own part he desired to approach the consideration of this Bill in the most impartial spirit, but when he came down to the House about a quarter of an hour ago he found that a circular containing statements of an inaccurate character with regard to this Measure were being distributed among hon. Members in the Central Lobby, and he was afraid that those statements would prevent hon. Members from approaching the consideration of the Bill in an equally impartial spirit. The circular purported to be issued by a firm of Parliamentary agents, carrying on their business in Abingdon Street, Westminster. What he desired to ask the Speaker was whether it was in order for any firm of Parliamentary agents to interfere with the procedure of that House in Private Business in the way he had indicated, which would have the effect of preventing the impartial consideration of a Private Bill. The circular contained a number of statements which, at all events, from his point of view, were not accurate, and, therefore, he submitted that the House ought in defence of its own procedure and privileges to prevent hon. Members being met by a circular of this kind in the Central Lobby. He, however, did not wish to press the point too far, but he submitted that it was a little out of harmony with the dignity and position of hon. Members that Parliamentary agents should seek to influence their action by such means as these.

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is probably aware that in the cases of private Bills, it is not at all uncommon for statements to be circulated on one side and on the other, and I do not think that the hon. Gentleman has laid before the House anything in the nature of a breach of Privilege. With regard to the circular in question having been distributed in the Central Lobby, I must say I do not think the Lobby is the right place for circulating such documents. ["Hear, hear!"] I will, at all events, make inquiries and see that no attempts of an objectionable kind are made to canvass Members in the Lobby. ["Hear, hear!"]

MR. CRILLY said that he now proposed to move the rejection of the Motion for the confirmation of this Provisional Order, because as far as he could see there was no other course open for him to take in connection with this Measure. This Bill showed the evils of the present system. The Board of Trade came before the House with a sort of omnibus Bill by which they sought to have confirmed a number of Provisional Orders relating to various localities in the north of Scotland, in the south of England and in Ireland. By this method of procedure the Measure was neither considered by a Committee, as in the case of a private Bill, nor had it the publicity of a public Bill. If a private Bill were promoted it was carefully examined by a Committee of the House upstairs, and if a public Bill were brought in it was considered in that House on its merits. In the present case they were merely asked to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Board of Trade, without any of the facts being brought under the notice of the House. For his part he could not understand why any Measure affecting the seaboard of Ireland should be promoted by the Board of Trade for England. However, they had to deal with the Bill as it stood. He would ask the House to follow the history of this Measure. This Bill proposed to renew the powers which were granted by that House in 1892 to build a pier and causeway and to construct other works at Killina. Those powers were to remain in force for five years, but during the five years, Mr. Frazer, the promoter of the Bill of 1892, had done nothing towards carrying out the authorised works, and he now came to ask that House for an extension of the period for constructing the works for another five years. He had had representations made to him that the locality was opposed to the term being extended for another five years. It appeared that it had been desired to construct a line of railway from Killina to Ballina, and the Government came to the assistance of the locality, and promoted a Measure for the construction of the line which was engineered by Mr. Frazer. Personally he had nothing to say against that Gentleman, whom the Government regarded as being a very capable engineer. But this Gentleman was a private individual, and the works to which this Bill was to apply were such public works as would, in the event of the change in the local government of Ireland, indicated by the right hon. Gentleman the First Lord of the Treasury, being brought about, be constructed by the various new County Councils. In these circumstances it was in his opinion right that a private individual should be allowed to intervene between the new Councils and the construction of these works. The Government themselves had recognised the importance of the proposed works by offering a grant of £10,000 towards their cost. In these circumstances he thought that the least that Mr. Frazer could be asked to do was to give some guarantee that he really intended to proceed with the construction of the works at once. It was on these grounds that he opposed this Bill.

THE SECRETARY TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. T. W. RUSSELL, Tyrone, S.) said that in his view it was not necessary for the House to spend much time in considering this very simple question. He could assure the hon. Member that the method of procedure by what he termed an omnibus Bill, was the usual practice. The Local Government Board had therefore done nothing out of the ordinary course in the procedure they had taken with regard to this Bill. The powers for the construction of these works were granted by Parliament in 1892, and all that Mr. Frazer now asked was that those powers should be renewed for another five years. The local authorities entirely approved of the extension of the period for the exercise of the powers conferred by the Act of 1892, and he hoped that the House would pass the Bill.

Bill considered; to be Read the Third time to-morrow.

QUESTIONS.

POST OFFICE ESTABLISHMENTS.

MR. S. WOODS (Essex, Walthamstow): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he will state if it is intended by the Tweedmouth Report that double increment for sorting clerks and telegraphists at and after the age of 21 shall apply in the case of officers scheduled B, C, D, and E in the said Report?

*THE SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. R. W. HANBURY, Preston): The Postmaster General understands the hon. Member to refer to the double increment which is to be given in the large provincial towns in Schedule A (which have hitherto had distinct classes of sorting clerks and telegraphists) to those officers who prove themselves qualified and ready to serve in future on both the postal and telegraph sides of the Department. That double increment will not be given in towns under Schedules B, C, D, and E, where the officers have always been liable to perform the double duty.

Mr. HUDSON KEARLEY (Devonport): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether prior to 31st March last the sorting clerks of Plymouth and the sorting clerks and telegraphists of Devonport were paid according to the same scale, the maximum of which was 40s. per week; whether the maximum pay of the former has now been raised to 52s. and the latter to 44s. only; whether he is aware that the sorting clerks and telegraphists at Devonport perform counter and telegraph duties in addition to sorting duties, which are alone performed by sorting clerks at Plymouth; and, whether he will investigate the local circumstances so that the Devonport clerks may receive pay and treatment equal to that conceded to the Plymouth staff?

*__Mr. HANBURY__: Prior to the 31st March last the maximum pay for the separate classes of sorting clerks and telegraphists at Plymouth was 52s., whereas the maximum pay of the amalgamated class at Devonport was 40s. The men were divided into two classes at Plymouth, the lower rising to 40s. and the higher to 52s., while at Devonport they formed only one class, rising to 40s. Under the Tweedmouth Scheme the two classes at Plymouth were thrown into one the maximum pay remaining at 52s., while the maximum at Devonport was raised from 40s. to 44s. It is the case that the sorting clerks and telegraphists at Devonport perform counter and telegraph duties in addition to sorting duties, while the great majority of the sorting clerks at Plymouth, though they take part in the counter duties, are not called upon to perform telegraph duties. But new entrants at Plymouth are now required to perform all the duties mentioned. The difference in pay is based upon the difference in the amount and importance of the business at the two offices, and it would be contrary to the approved system of classifying offices to raise Devonport to the same category as Plymouth.

CANADIAN MAIL SERVICE.

General LAURIE (Pembroke and Haverfordwest): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the conditions of the contract which has been entered into with Messrs. Peterson, Tate, and Company for the Canadian fast Atlantic service are in all respects the same as those set forth in the advertisements inviting tenders, and in reply to which advertisements, tenders at higher figures than were afterwards accepted by Messrs. Peterson were submitted; or whether there is any alteration in the conditions that will explain the lower subsidy accepted by Messrs. Peterson; and what ports have been definitely decided on and named both as ports of call on each side of the Atlantic?

The SECRETARY of STATE for the COLONIES (Mr. J. Chamberlain, Birmingham, W.): The conditions of the contract are the same as those set forth in the advertisement for tenders, except that in some particulars they are more onerous for the contractors. The steamers will start from Liverpool and run in summer to Quebec and to Montreal, when the navigation permits; in winter they will run to Halifax, Nova Scotia, or St. John, New Brunswick, at the option of the contractors, such option to be declared before May 31, 1899, the date fixed for the commencement of the service. Her Majesty's Government have stipulated that the vessels are to call at an Irish port if required, and that condition has been accepted by the contractors.

General LAURIE asked whether the Irish port referred to in the answer of the right hon. Gentleman had been defined?

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN: No, Sir.

CANADA (PREFERENTIAL TARIFF).

Sir HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies if British goods are now being admitted into Canada upon the lower and preferential tariff recently adopted by the Dominion Government; if there is any reason to apprehend a disturbance of this advantage to British trade; and, in the event of any protest being received from any foreign nation, will Her Majesty's Government take prompt steps to secure complete liberty of action in commercial matters between the several Governments of the Dominions of the Queen, in accordance with the unanimous resolution of the Intercolonial Conference held at Ottawa in 1894, at which all the self-governing Colonies were represented by their ablest statesmen?

MR. CHAMBERLAIN: British goods are now being admitted to Canada upon the lower tariff. Protests have been received from the Governments of Belgium and Germany, and the matter is under the consideration of the Law Officers.

FACTORY INSPECTORS' ASSISTANTS.

MR. WOODS: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department will he explain why the parchment certificates of authority formerly issued to the inspectors of factories' assistants by the predecessor of the right hon. Gentleman have been lately withdrawn, and in the new certificates issued to them all power to enter factories and schools has been omitted, and power given to them only to enter and inspect workshops and workshop laundries; whether the inspector assistants would be trespassers should they inadvertently enter a factory; and, whether he is aware that the latterly issued instructions are causing a great amount of injury to the workers by preventing an adequate inspection especially in factories and schools?

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY, Lancashire, Blackpool): There has been no change of practice in this matter as the hon. Member seems to suppose. Inspectors' assistants, from the time when the class was instituted by my predecessor, never have inspected factories or schools; their duties have always been confined to workshops, and the alteration in the certificate has been made with the object of preventing any misunderstanding as to their position. The injury which the change is supposed to be causing to the workers must be imaginary. I think the provisions of Section 68 of the Act of 1878 would protect an inspector's assistant who entered a factory.

CRETE.

MR. HERBERT GLADSTONE (Leeds, W.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty whether any estimate has been made of the cost to the country of the blockade of Crete; and whether any arrangement has been arrived at for an equal apportionment of the total cost among the six Governments directly concerned in the Concert of Europe?

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Mr. G. CURZON, Lancashire, Southport): The answer to both Questions is in the negative.

MR. HERBERT GLADSTONE: Has no suggestion been made to apportion the cost between the parties?

*MR CURZON: No such suggestion has been made.

MR. JAMES BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether the six Powers have yet agreed upon the scheme of autonomy to be established in Crete; and, if so, whether the Sultan has accepted the scheme; and what progress is being made with the removal of the Turkish troops from Crete?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): The question of the organisation of Crete is under the consideration of the Powers. It has not yet been possible to open discussion with the Porte on the subject, as the settlement of an armistice and the terms of peace between Turkey and Greece first require attention. The removal of the Turkish troops from Crete is dependent upon the formation of an adequate force for the preservation of public order—a measure which is now under discussion.

MR. J. C. FLYNN (Cork, N.) asked if the right hon. Gentleman could say whether the Powers had yet agreed upon the choice of a Christian Governor for the island?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: No Governor-General has yet been selected.

MR. J. C. FLYNN: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether an armed band of Mohammedans made a sortie from Candia on the night of the 29th instant, burned the village of Kalivia, killing 12 men and two women, and lifting a large number of cattle; and whether, in view of the exasperating effect likely to be produced by this raid on the Christian Cretans, the representatives of the

Great Powers will take adequate measures to protect the Christian population against the recurrence of such attacks?

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucester, Forest of Dean): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what information is in the possession of Her Majesty's Government as to the Mohammedan attack from near Candia on Kalivia and the loss of life which occurred?

*MR. CURZON: It appears from telegraphic reports received from Sir A. Biliotti and Colonel Chermside that on the night of the 28th a secretly organised raid was made by Moslem peasants on the village of Ghalifa. The raid resulted in the death of 10 or 12 Christians and one or two women; cattle and sheep were carried off, and the olive oil deposits were destroyed. The Consul derives his information from Turkish sources. Colonel Chermside sent on the 30th instant to the insurgents informing them of his regret, and that the raid took place without the knowledge of the Governor, who had specially instructed the outposts that no movement of any sort was to take place. Colonel Chermside has been directed by the Admiral to insist upon the disarmament of the Mohammedans, who commenced the attack.

MR. JOHN DILLON (Mayo, E.) asked whether any punishment was to be awarded to or any effort made to bring to justice these murderers, because they were nothing else?

*MR. CURZON: That is an assurance which it is difficult, if not impossible, for me to give here, and I am afraid that if we are to give promises about meting out punishment to those who commence these disorderly attacks in Crete the whole time of our officials in that country will be taken up in so doing.

MR. DILLON: Is not the town of Candia in possession of the Great Powers?

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member is entering into an argument.

CAPTAIN PIRIE (Aberdeen, N.): Can the right hon. Gentleman say who is responsible at this present moment for the government of Crete?

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! That does not arise out of the Question.

*SIR C. DILKE: On behalf of the hon. Member for North Monmouth (Mr. R. MCKENNA), I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he has any information of a nature to supplement or contradict the statement in a letter of Rear Admiral Harris to Admiral Sir J. O. Hopkins, of 23rd April 1897, in which he describes the insurgent forces round the town of Candia as consisting of 3,000 fighting men, which might be raised to 8,000 or 10,000 for any operation on the outside of the town; and whether this may be taken as a substantially accurate estimate of the insurgent forces round Candia at the present moment?

MR. CURZON: In a Dispatch dated May 11th, Colonel Chermside stated that from the date named in the Question onwards there were reports of a considerable concentration of insurgent forces upon Candia, and that on one occasion it was estimated by the Turks that as many as 6,000 insurgents, including 600 horsemen, were present.

STEAM TRAWLERS (INJURY TO BRIGHTON DRIFT NETS).

MR. GERALD LODER (Brighton): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he is aware that very serious damage is constantly being done to the drift nets of the Brighton fishermen by steam trawlers, which also destroy large quantities of immature fish; and whether he is prepared to take effective measures to protect the fishing industry on this part of the coast?

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. C. T. RITCHIE, Croydon): I am aware of complaints that injury has been caused to drift nets by trawlers off the coast of Sussex, but it does not appear that the drifters have taken the usual steps for identifying the boats alleged to have offended. Had they done so, they might, upon due proof, have obtained compensation under the Sea Fisheries Act 1883. It is the practice of the Admiralty to place a cruiser on this coast during the fishing season, and I understand that there is one there now; but the fishermen ought to do their part by supplying the necessary information and evidence.

QUARANTINE.

Mr. HENNIKER HEATON (Canterbury): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he is aware that all P. and O. steamships from Australia, which take on board Bombay mails and passengers at Aden, are, in consequence of the existence of bubonic plague at Bombay, quarantined with their passengers at all the ports of call, Suez, Port Said, Brindisi, Marseilles, etc.; whether he has received petitions, signed by nearly all the passengers by the P. and O. steamer *Parramatta*, from Australia, strongly protesting against the present practice of taking the Bombay passengers at Aden on their clean ship, pointing out the further inconvenience they were subjected to by not being allowed to land at ports of call, entailing delay and discomfort, and also that there is a weekly service of mails from Bombay to Aden, which might be extended to Brindisi, as it is now done fortnightly; whether the statement made by the petitioners is correct that the P. and O. Company is not responsible, as the terms of their mail contract compel their steamers to call at Aden; and whether the Government will taken action in the matter without delay?

*Mr. HANBURY: The Postmaster General understands that all Peninsular and Oriental steamships from Australia which take on board passengers from Bombay at Aden are placed in quarantine at the Egyptian ports of call. At Brindisi and Marseilles he believes there is now no regular quarantine, but only a certain medical inspection which causes little delay. The petition referred to from passengers on the steamship *Parramatta* has been received. The statement that the call at Aden is compulsory under the contracts of the Peninsular and Oriental Company with the Postmaster General is not quite correct. The mail steamers from Australia are not obliged to call at Aden, but the Company are at liberty under the terms of the contracts to make these steamers call there and carry the mails from Bombay to Europe. A copy of the petition has been sent to the Company; but, as I stated in reply to a similar Question on April 12 last, it is not in accord with the duty of the Post Office Department to take further steps in a matter which does not directly affect the mail service.

QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE.

Admiral FIELD (Sussex, Eastbourne): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether, in view of the forthcoming Naval Review at Spithead, he will follow the precedent set in the case of the Naval Review in 1887, and call the attention of the various police authorities in Hampshire, Portsmouth, Southampton, and Isle of Wight by circular as to their duty under the Merchant Shipping Act of enforcing the law against the overcrowding of steamers, and thereby preventing the serious risk and danger to human life by such overcrowding in the event of collision on such an occasion?

Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY: Yes. I propose to issue a circular to these police authorities similar to that sent out in 1887.

Admiral FIELD: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether, in view of the forthcoming Naval Review at Spithead, he will adopt the course taken at the Naval Review in 1887, and cause notices to be issued to all masters and owners of steam vessels employed between Portsmouth, Gosport, Southampton, and Isle of Wight, licensed to carry passengers, warning them against any infringement of the law by carrying more than the specified number of persons mentioned in their licences respectively, in view of the fact that such overloading is a very serious risk and danger to life in the event of even a slight collision in a crowded roadstead?

Mr. RITCHIE: Before notice of my hon. and gallant Friend's Question appeared on the Paper, I had given instructions for the issue of cautionary notices with regard to vessels taking passengers to the forthcoming Naval Review. I have also placed myself in communication with the Home Office on the subject.

Sir JOHN LENG (Dundee): I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works whether there is any precedent for the exclusion of Members of this House from Westminster Hall except on payment of a sum of money for refreshments; and, under what authority is it proposed to appropriate any part of the precincts of the House to the exclusive use of certain Members for a monetary consideration?

THE FIRST COMMISSIONER OF WORKS (Mr. AKERS-DOUGLAS, Kent, St. Augustine's): In reply to the hon. Member, I may say that I have had, and I have, no intention of excluding Members of this House from Westminster Hall on the the 22nd June, and they will not be so excluded. At the request of a Select Committee representative of the whole House, I sanctioned the use of the Hall for a definite purpose, which I believe was approved by the House. The arrangements for the day in question rests with the Select Committee.

SIR JOHN LENG: Am I to understand that the hon. Gentleman withdraws his public announcement that Members unprovided with tickets will not be admitted to the House?

MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS: I never made any such announcement.

MR. T. G. ASHTON (Beds, Luton): I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works whether he is aware that, while lords lieutenant of counties are to be provided with seats in Trafalgar Square on Jubilee Day, no provision is to be made for sheriffs of counties; that the office of sheriff is a much more ancient one than that of lord lieutenant; and that the sheriff is, equally with the lord lieutenant, the representative of the Sovereign in the county; and whether, having regard to these facts, he will reconsider his decision with regard to the provision of seats for sheriffs of counties?

MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS: I am sorry to say that I cannot depart from my previous decision as to the high sheriffs, it being impossible, for want of space, to allot seats to them on the stands. I may mention that, as most of the lords lieutenant are provided for in other capacities, only about six applications from them have had to be met.

ADMIRAL FIELD: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty whether, in view of the fact that the forthcoming Jubilee Procession is to be composed in part of military and police contingents from every Colony and Dependency of the Crown, the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty will make further representations so that the sea power of the Empire may find its proper place in the Procession, either in the form of a naval field battery with a covering party of Marines or of a rocket brigade; and whether, if none of these suggestions can be adopted and it is decided that the Royal Navy shall have no place in the Imperial Procession, the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty will order that the seamen of the Fleet shall remain at their respective ports, and not be brought up to act as sentries in the streets, and that their services shall be confined to furnishing guards of honour where required?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. GOSCHEN, St. George's, Hanover Square): I would ask my hon. and gallant Friend to repeat his Question on Thursday, when I will be able to say more with regard to this subject. At present I can only say that I believe it would be a subject of great disappointment to the public at large and of deep regret to the naval service if they could not participate in the Procession on Jubilee Day. [*Cheers.*]

MR. JOHN AIRD (Paddington, N.) asked the Financial Secretary to the Admiralty whether he could now state whether any arrangements had been made to enable Members of Parliament to witness the illuminations of the Fleet on the occasion of the Naval Review?

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. W. E. MACARTNEY, Antrim, S.): I am glad to say that it has been possible to make arrangements to enable a certain number of Members and their friends to remain on board the *Campania* for the purpose of witnessing the illuminations. Accommodation can be provided for not more than 350 persons to dine, sleep and breakfast on board the ship. They will be landed at Southampton on Sunday morning by tender from the *Campania* not later than ten o'clock. The *Campania*, after landing those who desire to return to town on Saturday afternoon, will leave Southampton Dock not later than 7 o'clock p.m. and take up a position in the Solent. The charge will be £5 5s. per head, and these arrangements are dependent upon not less than 250 persons intimating their intention of staying on board.

CO-OPERATIVE STORES (SCOTLAND).

DR. CLARK (Caithness): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate (1) whether he is aware that a number of traders in Scotland have formed an association to boycott the co-operative stores and their members by refusing to sell to them, and that at a public auction in Glasgow the auctioneer refused to accept a bid made by the manager of a store; (2) whether boycotting is illegal in Scotland; and, if so, what action he intends to take in the matter?

*THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire): In answer to the first paragraph of the Question, I am aware that a dispute has arisen as to the action of an auctioneer at a public sale in Glasgow. I understand that an action of damages in respect thereof has been raised in the Sheriff Court, which action is at present *sub judice;* and in any case the point as affecting civil liability is not one on which I could pronounce an opinion. In reply to the second paragraph of the Question, I have to state that "boycotting" is not a "*nomen juris*." If the conduct of any person or persons in Scotland is alleged to be in contravention of the criminal law, the matter should be brought forward by lodging information with the Procurator Fiscal in ordinary form. No complaint has up to this time been lodged in respect of the matters alleged in the Question; and there is therefore at present no occasion for me to take action.

ARTILLERY PRACTICE (DARTMOOR).

MR. H. C. F. LUTTRELL (Devon, Tavistock): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether, in view of the large number of people who use Dartmoor as a holiday resort, he would take steps to prevent the artillery practice on Dartmoor on bank holidays?

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE WAR OFFICE (Mr. POWELL-WILLIAMS, Birmingham, S.): It is not quite clear that the general wish of the frequenters of Dartmoor accords with the suggestion in the hon. Member's Question. It is understood that a great many persons go out to Okehampton on bank holidays expressly in the hope of seeing firing. Again, each battery has a limited time at Okehampton and many days are too misty for firing. If a bank holiday should be a bright day, succeeding several misty ones, it might not be possible to spare the day from the firing course. Therefore, the question of firing or not on a bank holiday must be left to the decision of the officer commanding on the spot. Precautions are, of course, taken for the safety of the public.

MR. LUTTRELL asked whether it was the case that large numbers of people did go to witness the practice, and whether, if they did go, they were allowed to roam about the moor as they pleased?

MR. POWELL-WILLIAMS said the people did not roam about the moor as they pleased, but they did go to places of safety in considerable numbers to watch the firing.

UGANDA RAILWAY.

MR. R. W. PERKS (Lincolnshire, Louth): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what is the reason why only 68 miles of the Uganda Railway were laid up to the 18th May, as against the estimate of 100 miles mentioned in the Report of the Uganda Railway Works Committee of 10th April 1896; how many men are now engaged upon the works, and how many of these are English, and how many native workers; what length of the route of the proposed railway from Mombasa to Victoria Nyanza has now been completely surveyed; and whether it is the intention of the Government to open the first section of 68 miles, now finished, for public traffic; and if so, when?

MR. CURZON: The Report of the Committee, which I have promised to lay out at an early date, will contain all the information that we are in a position to give with regard to the question raised by the hon. Member; the difficulty of obtaining labour has been the most serious obstacle.

SHIPWRIGHTS (NAVY).

GENERAL LAURIE: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty (1) what is the establishment of shipwrights on the active list of Her Majesty's Navy; (2) whether the number is complete, or what is the present deficiency; and (3) if a deficiency, whether competent men have expressed unwillingness to enter the service, owing to alleged grievances in regard to rank and pay and the duties they are required to perform; and (4), whether there is any alterations in the matters of pay and position?

MR. MACARTNEY: There is no fixed establishment of shipwright ratings. The number borne at the present moment is 1151, and the number required to meet waste is 27. As regards paragraphs 2 and 3, it is, I believe, the case that efforts are being made to prevent the entry of shipwrights, with a view to putting pressure upon the Admiralty to remedy certain specified grievances. These alleged grievances have been carefully examined, but it is not considered necessary to treat shipwrights in any exceptional manner as compared with other skilled ratings on board H.M. ships.

POST OFFICE (SECRETARY).

MR. WOOTTON ISAACSON (Tower Hamlets, Stepney): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether the Secretary to the Post Office is still away in Washington; and who is Acting Secretary in his absence?

*MR. HANBURY: The Secretary to the Post Office is still absent in Washington, attending the Postal Union Congress. The Second Secretary acts as Secretary in his absence.

WORKHOUSE INFIRMARIES AND FEVER HOSPITALS (IRELAND).

MR. J. L. CAREW (Dublin, College Green): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in consequence of the defective condition of the nursing in Irish workhouse infirmaries and fever hospitals, he will consider the desirability of suggesting to the Local Government Board to appoint at least one or two lady inspectors, professionally qualified as doctors or nurses to inspect the Poor Law fever hospitals and infirmaries, and who would also inspect the state of the women and children, the idiots, lunatics, and infirm?

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): The major portion of the duties of an Inspector of the Local Government Board could not be undertaken by a lady inspector. As to the expediency of appointing a lady inspector, the question is not one on which I should be prepared to offer an opinion at present.

DRUNKENNESS (STRATFORD).

MR. T. P. WHITTAKER (York, W.R., Spen Valley): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been drawn to a case in which a woman was convicted at West Ham on 20th March for being drunk, the police constable who was on point duty outside the "Princess Alice" public house in Romford Road, Stratford, having given evidence that at 7 p.m. on the night of 19th March he saw the prisoner enter the "Princess Alice" sober, and spoke to her; that she remained there two hours, and at 9 p.m. he was called in to eject her, and she was then very drunk; and whether any proceedings have been taken by the police against the landlord of the "Princess Alice" for permitting drunkenness; if not, whether he can state why such proceedings have not been instituted?

*SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY: I have obtained a report of this case and find that it is not correct to say that the constable gave evidence that the woman remained in the public house for two hours. What he did say, when asked whether she was there the whole of the two hours from 7 to 9, was that he did not see her after 7 until called to the public house at 9; and the facts appear to be that the woman left the house in less than half an hour after the constable saw her enter it, that she returned about 9 the worse for liquor, and that the landlord refused to serve her, and called the constable to eject her. There were no grounds for taking any proceedings against the landlord.

IRISH MAIL SERVICE.

MR. E. CREAN (Queen's County, Ossory): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether it would be possible to have the mails on their arrival at Abbeyleix, Queen's County, at 8.25 a.m., immediately forwarded to Ballinakill, as the present delay of over three hours causes great inconvenience to people leaving by the 10.14 a.m. train from Abbeyleix, before the delivery of the mails under existing arrangements?

Mr. HANBURY: The day mail, which arrives at Abbeyleix at 8.25 a.m., reaches the post office at 8.35 a.m., and the postman is dispatched at 9.40 a.m. for Ballinakill, where he is due at 11.20 a.m. He cannot leave earlier because he has other duties to perform. To admit of the interval of 1 hour 5 minutes between the arrival of the mails and the departure for Ballinakill being reduced, it would be necessary to employ another person, and this would involve additional expense. At the best the interval could not be reduced by more than about 40 or 45 minutes, which would apparently be of no use for the purpose indicated by the hon. Member. The day mail service to Ballinakill, which was recently accelerated by upwards of two hours, is now carried on at a loss, and any further expense would not be justified.

ARMY PENSION (MICHAEL CONNAUGHTON).

Mr. JASPER TULLY (Leitrim, S.): I beg to ask the Financial Secretary to the War Office whether the attention of the Commissioners of Chelsea Hospital has been directed to the case of a Crimean veteran, Michael Connaughton, now residing at Ballintubber, County Roscommon, who served in the Crimean War and Indian Mutiny, was wounded at Inkerman, and holds three war medals, and was discharged on a pension of 9d. a day; and whether, as this pension is now insufficient for his support, he will recommend that he be granted a special campaign pension?

Mr. POWELL-WILLIAMS: The special campaign pension is only granted to men who are not already pensioners for army service, as Michael Connaughton has been since 1867.

FISHERY CRUISERS.

Mr. J. G. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty if he will state the speed, normal coal supply, complement, and original cost of each of the following cruisers engaged in protecting the interests of the line fishermen off the coast of Great Britain and Ireland, viz., *Jackal*, *Daisy*, *Hearty*, and *Beatrice*.

Mr. MACARTNEY: The particulars asked for by the hon. Member are as follows,—

Ship.	Speed, Knots.	Coal Stowage, Tons.	Complement.	Original Cost.
Hearty	14·5	250	94	£42,213
Jackal	13·5	130	59	25,265
Daisy	Sailing Vessel		7	1,345
Beatrice	Sailing Vessel		5	1,127

MILITARY EQUIPMENT (INDIA).

Mr. G. B. HUDSON (Herts, Hitchin); I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he is aware that in cases of officers proceeding to serve in India, a part of their military equipment, such as their sword and revolver, is exempted from import duty, whereas their regimental saddle and bridle, equally necessary proportions, are charged a duty; and whether he will inquire into the matter?

The SECRETARY of STATE for INDIA (Lord George Hamilton, Middlesex, Ealing): The Indian Tariff Act exempts from import duty arms imported by a military officer for the purposes of his equipment. I am not aware whether an officer's saddlery is similarly exempted from the general import duty of 5 per cent. *ad valorem*, but I will communicate with the Government of India on the subject.

STATIONERY.

Sir HOWARD VINCENT: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury if the War Office, the India Office, or any other Government Department, is able to obtain either paper or other stationery otherwise than through the Stationery Office; and whether he will consider if the Stationery Office might obtain its supplies more advantageously direct from mills and factories in the United Kingdom instead of from middlemen who may be only agents of foreign firms?

*Mr. HANBURY: Unless under exceptional circumstances all supplies of stationery required for use in the Public

Service and paid for directly from Public Votes are obtained through the Stationery Office. Supplies for use in India, which are paid from India funds, have now for some years past been commonly purchased by the India Office without the intervention of the Stationery Office. It is only under exceptional circumstances that middlemen can properly be excluded from the open competition which is the rule of the Office. Such a case arises for instance when, owing to a combination of firms, prices are run up unduly high. This I found to be happening with regard to certain classes of paper, and the tenders were therefore limited to the actual producers, with the result that we shall now obtain them at prices at least 25 per cent. lower than hitherto.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING (KENSINGTON AND KNIGHTSBRIDGE CO.)

Mr. H. M. STANLEY (Lambeth, N.): On behalf of the hon. Member for Westminster (Mr. Burdett-Coutts), I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether the notice recently issued by the Kensington and Knightsbridge Electric Lighting Company to their consumers intimating their intention to increase the voltage of the current supplied from 100 to 200, and calling upon the consumers to adapt their fittings at their own expense to comply with the altered voltage, was issued with the sanction of the Board of Trade; and, whether compliance with such notice is legally binding on the consumers?

Mr. RITCHIE: I have not seen the notice referred to, but the sanction of the Board of Trade to any such notice is not required. Under the Board of Trade Regulations any change of standard pressure by the Kensington and Knightsbridge Electric Lighting Company is subject to the approval of the County Council and not of the Board of Trade. No provision is made for a reference to the Board of Trade, except on appeal by the Company against any decision of the County Council. No change is allowable in the pressure of the supply to any premises which on March 4th 1896, the date of the Board of Trade Regulations, were supplied with energy by the Company, except with the consent of the consumer.

PLAGUE (BOMBAY).

Mr. J. M. MACLEAN (Cardiff): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India (1) whether the measures of segregation of the sick, and of the healthy from plague-infected houses, recently ordered by the Government of Bombay on the recommendation of medical men from Hong Kong, were in substance urged upon that Government early in October 1896, by the Surgeon General with the Government of Bombay, and again in December by a committee of Bombay medical officers presided over by the late Surgeon Major Manser; (2) whether the Surgeon General in October advised medical examination of railway passengers at Kalyan and Virar, as being more effectual than inspection at terminal stations within Bombay limits, and whether the recommendation was disregarded by the Bombay Government for three and a half months, during which the plague was carried to numerous fresh centres of infection; (3) whether in the measures that have been adopted and the special appointments made to deal with the plague, the Bombay Government have acted in consultation with the Surgeon General and the Sanitary Commissioner and on their recommendation; and (4) whether he will lay upon the Table copies of the report of committee above referred to and of the recommendations of the Surgeon General?

Lord GEORGE HAMILTON: I am unable to answer the first two Questions as to the origin and paternity of the measures taken to suppress plague in Bombay, but, so far as I know, there has been no divergence of opinion as to the most effective means of stamping out the pestilence, though there may have been differences of opinion as to the possibility of enforcing drastic measures offhand. I believe that the Bombay Government have acted throughout in consultation with the Surgeon General and the Sanitary Commissioner. As to the reports referred to, I will inquire about them and consider whether they should be made public.

SILVER IMPORTS (INDIA).

Mr. MACLEAN: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether, since the closing of the Indian mints in 1894, continuous shipments of silver have been imported into India, amounting on the average to seven crores of rupees annually, or nearly as large an amount as was imported when the mints were open; whether these imports were maintained in 1896-7, notwithstanding the ravages of plague and famine and the reduction of Indian exports of merchandise by nine crores of rupees; whether his attention has been called to the report that large consignments of the imported silver have been taken into Native States under a rebate of duty, and after being coined have been brought back into British India and sold at a profit; whether, in consequence of the competition of silver imports, the fluctuations in exchange are as great as ever; and will he explain why, in these circumstances, the mints are still kept closed?

Lord G. HAMILTON: The Indian mints were closed on 26th June 1893. For the five years previous to that date the net imports of silver into India averaged Rx.11,249,000. For the three years since 1893-94 they have averaged Rx.6,256,000, showing a reduction of Rx.4,993,000, or about 44½ per cent. The net imports in 1896-97 were the smallest on record since 1881-82. I have seen the statement as to the importation of silver into Native States in order that it may be re-imported into British India at a profit; but I doubt it, as there is no provision in the law for a rebate of duty on the import of silver into Native States. Imports of silver are not the only factors affecting exchange; and I know no reasons for thinking that the fluctuations in exchange (which, I may add, have of late been very much less than those of of previous years) are attributable to them. In these circumstances, there is no intention of altering the policy adopted in 1893.

DUTY ON HERRINGS.

Mr. WEIR: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, as in the 14th Annual Report of the Fishery Board for Scotland it is urged that the Governments of Russia and Austria should be approached with a view to a reduction in the duty on herrings entering those countries from Scotland, and that the Foreign Office hesitates to appeal to the Russian Government, will he state whether there are any circumstances to prevent an application to the Austrian Government on the subject?

Mr. CURZON: It is not considered that an application of this nature would lead to any useful result.

SMITH *v.* LONDON AND SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANY.

Mr. WEIR: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether his attention has been called to the report of the trial of Smith *v.* London and South Western Railway Company, in the Queen's Bench Division last week, in which the plaintiff recovered £100 damages for having been detained at Totton Station by the station master some hours because he refused to give up his ticket, although he had previously tendered his card with his name and address; and, in view of the fact that the action of the station master, although illegal, was supported by the railway company as being in accordance with one of their bye-laws sanctioned by the Board of Trade, will he see that the bye-law is cancelled, not only so far as this Company is concerned, but also in the case of any other company which may have obtained the Board's approval of such bye-law?

Mr. RITCHIE: The Board of Trade are aware of the supersession of the bye-law by Section 5 (2) of the Regulation of Railways Act, 1889; there are, however, many points in the bye-laws which require consideration, and the Board propose to deal with them as a whole.

PENSIONS COMMUTATION ACT.

Mr. WEIR: I beg to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he is aware that a retired officer, aged say 50, desirous of commuting £100 of his pension, would under the Tables of the Pensions Commutation Board, be entitled to receive only £1,121. 7s. 1d., while, should he be desirous of purchasing from the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt an annuity of £100 per annum, he would have to pay £1,583. 10s. 6d., a difference between buying and selling of £463. 3s. 5d.; and whether he will re-consider his decision as to the expediency of taking such steps as will admit of the Tables of the Pensions Commutation Board being placed more in accord with the present value of money, especially having regard to the fact that they were promulgated immediately after the passing of the Pensions Commutation Act of 1871, when Three Per Cent. Consols stood at 92¾, and have not been once revived?

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER (Sir Michael Hicks Beach, Bristol, W.): The difference between the prices at which a pension can be commuted and a Government Life Annuity bought is not so great as the hon. Member supposes. Some considerable difference in two such cases is inevitable; because the average life of persons who commute their pensions would be as a rule considerably less than that of those who buy a Life Annuity. I do not propose to alter the law.

TOKAT MASSACRE.

Mr. FLYNN: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the Foreign Office has yet received information respecting the letter addressed by Sir Philip Currie to Tewfik Pasha, in regard to the recent massacre of Armenians at Tokat; whether complaint was made as to the inactivity of the tribunal at Tokat appointed to try the Mussulmans implicated in the massacre; and what steps have been taken by the representatives of the Powers to secure the punishment of those already tried and found guilty of complicity in the affair?

Mr. CURZON: No reply has yet been received to our telegram, which was sent more than a week ago. We have telegraphed again.

Mr. FLYNN asked the right hon. Gentleman whether he was aware that this letter was alleged to have been sent by Sir Philip Currie over a fortnight ago?

Mr. CURZON said they telegraphed to Sir Philip Currie a day or two after the hon. Gentleman put a Question in the House. It was to that telegram that no reply had been received.

LOCAL TAXATION. (ROYAL COMMISSION.)

Sir. HENRY FOWLER (Wolverhampton, E.): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board the date of the warrant appointing the Royal Commission on Local Taxation, and the number of days that Commission has sat since its appointment?

The SECRETARY to the LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. T. W. Russell, Tyrone, S.): The date of the warrant appointing the Royal Commission on Local Taxation was 15th August 1896, and that the Commission has held 19 meetings since that date.

METROPOLITAN WATER COMPANIES BILL.

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON (Tower Hamlets, Poplar): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board, when he proposes to take the Second Reading of the Metropolitan Water Companies Bill?

The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY: I cannot give an absolute pledge on the matter, but I think it probable—I cannot put it higher than that—that the Second Reading of this Bill will be taken on Monday, the 28th.

ALLEGED LARCENY (CO. MONAGHAN).

Mr. D. MACALEESE (Monaghan, N.): I beg to ask the Attorney General for Ireland if he will release the money found upon the Maguires, who are detained in prison for alleged larceny from the body of a dead man, so that the men may be enabled to provide for their defence?

The ATTORNEY GENERAL for IRELAND (Mr. J. Atkinson, Londonderry, N.): If evidence on oath be supplied to me by the prisoners that they are unable to provide for their defence without this money I will direct that so much of it as may be at present necessary may, with the exception of one particular five pounds, be paid over to the prisoners on their signing a receipt therefor, describing the nature of the monies paid over and the amount.

MAGNETIC OBSERVATORY (GREENWICH).

Lord HUGH CECIL (Greenwich): I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works whether any steps have been taken to fix the site of the new Magnetic Observatory at Greenwich?

Mr. AKERS-DOUGLAS: I must refer the noble Lord to the answer which I gave him to a similar Question last week.

PRIVATE BILL LEGISLATION (IRELAND).

MR. W. LECKY (Dublin University): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether there is any prospect of the Government introducing, during the present Session, the Measure relating to Irish Private Bill Legislation, which was forshadowed in the Queen's Speech?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I cannot hold out any prospect that the Government will introduce during the present Session a Measure relating to Irish Private Bill Legislation. Apart from the question of the time required for the completion of Government business already before the House, it would appear expedient, in view of the reform of local government which it is proposed to carry out next year, to defer dealing with Irish Private Bill Legislation until the subject can be considered with reference to the new state of things which that reform will establish.

MR. DILLON: Can the right hon. Gentleman kindly say whether the Government intend to introduce or pass any Bill relating to Ireland this Session?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: Yes, Sir; there is a Bill already on the Paper relating to Ireland.

DERBY DAY.

MR. R. G. WEBSTER (St. Pancras, E.), asked the First Lord of the Treasury whether he proposed to take Government business to-morrow.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: In answer to my hon. Friend I have to say it is manifest that the Debates on the Committee stage of the Accidents to Workmen Bill will require us to set aside to-morrow for the discussion of that Measure.

MR. R. G. WEBSTER: In consequence of the reply of the right hon. Gentleman, I beg to give notice that I do not propose to move the adjournment of the House to-morrow. (*Opposition cries of* "Oh" *and Laughter.*) And I would add that I sincerely hope that this may not act as a precedent (*renewed Opposition laughter*), and that hon. Gentlemen who, as a matter of fact, are against the adjournment may be in their places to discuss this important question. (*Opposition laughter.*)

MOTIONS.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT (1894) AMENDMENT.

Bill to amend the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1894, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Parker Smith, Sir Thomas Gibson-Carmichael, Colonel Denny, and Mr. John Wilson (Govan); presented and Read the First time; to be Read a Second time upon Monday 21st June, and to be printed.—[Bill 275.]

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (CONTINUATION SCHOOLS).

Bill to amend the Elementary Education Acts, and to provide Continuation Schools, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Samuel Smith, Sir John Lubbock, Mr. Yerburgh, Colonel Mellor, Mr. James Stuart, and Sir George Baden-Powell; presented, and Read the First time; to be Read a Second time upon Monday 28th June, and to be printed.—[Bill 276.]

BETTING ACT (1853) REPEAL.

Bill to repeal The Betting Act 1853, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Tully, Mr. Patrick Aloysius M'Hugh, Mr. John Roche, and Mr. Thomas B. Curran; presented, and Read the First time; to be Read a Second time upon Thursday, and to be printed.—[Bill 277].

ELECTRIC LIGHTING ACTS AMENDMENT.

Bill to amend the Electric Lighting Acts, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Tully, Mr. Horace Plunkett, Mr. Patrick Aloysius M'Hugh, and Mr. Thomas Curran; presented, and Read the First time; to be Read a Second time upon Thursday, 24th June, and to be printed.—[Bill 278.]

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

WORKMEN (COMPENSATION FOR ACCIDENTS) BILL.

Considered in Committee.—[Progress, 31st May.]

[The CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS, Mr. J. W. LOWTHER, in the Chair.]

Clause 2,—

APPLICATION OF ACT AND DEFINITIONS.

(1.) This Act shall apply only to employment on, in, or about a railway, factory, mine, quarry, or engineering work.

(2.) In this Act—

"Railway" means the railway of any railway company to which the Regulation of Railways Act 1871 applies, and "railway" and "railway company" have the same meaning as in that Act.

"Factory" has the same meaning as in the Factory and Workshop Acts 1878 to 1891, and also includes any dock, wharf, quay, or warehouse, to which any provision of the Factory Acts is applied by the Factory and Workshop Act 1895.

"Mine" means a mine to which the Coal Mines Regulation Act 1887, or the Metalliferous Mines Regulation Act 1872 applies.

"Quarry" means a quarry under the Quarries Act 1894.

"Engineering work" means any work of construction of a railroad, harbour, dock, canal, or sewer, and includes any building or other work on which machinery driven by steam, water, or other mechanical power is used for the purpose of the construction thereof.

"Employer" includes any body of persons corporate or unincorporate.

"Workman" includes every person who is engaged in an employment to which this Act applies, whether by way of manual labour or otherwise, and whether his agreement is one of service or apprenticeship or otherwise, and is expressed or implied, is oral or in writing.

Amendment proposed [1st June] in Sub-section (1), after the word "quarry," to insert the word "shipyard."—(*Mr. J. A. Pease*).—Debate resumed.

MR. ABEL THOMAS (Carmarthen, E.) said his hon. Friend had told him that he proposed to postpone his Amendment to a later stage. He understood the learned Attorney General to have said that it was the intention of the Government that shipyards should be included. That was the only matter in which he was interested at present, and he hoped that if he could show in a very few words that ship yards did not come within the Bill as proposed, the Government would give a favourable consideration to the Amendment which his hon. Friend would propose hereafter at a more suitable place. The whole question whether ship yards came within the words of the Bill or not depended upon the definition of the word "factory." The Bill stated that the word "factory" had the same meaning as in the Factory and Workshops Acts 1878 and 1891. The definition clause which governed the whole matter was Section 93 of the Act of 1878, which said: "The expression non-textile factory"—under which a ship yard would come if it came under anything—

"shall include any premises or places named in part 2 of the said schedule, or within the close, curtilage, or precinct of which steam, water, or other mechanical power is used in aid of any manufacturing or other processes carried on therein."

In the second part of the Schedule they found the words "shipbuilding yard," but it was perfectly clear that shipbuilding yard was governed by the words in Section 93 which he had read, and it was only shipbuilding yards in the close, cartilage, or precinct of which there was steam, water, or other mechanical power used. As he understood, when his hon. Friend came to propose his Amendment at a later stage, he would frame it so as to refer to all shipbuilding yards.

MR. J. A. PEASE (Northumberland, Tyneside) said that on the understanding that he should be able to propose an Amendment to increase the meaning of the word "factory," so as to include all vessels, whether being constructed in yards in which there was mechanical power or not, and all vessels under repair in mid-stream, he proposed to withdraw the Amendment which he moved last night.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY, Lancashire, Blackpool) said no pledge had been given, but it was quite open to his hon. Friend to move the Amendment. The Government were desirous of keeping within the definition of the Factory Act.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. R. W. PERKS (Lincolnshire, Louth) moved, in Sub-section (1), after the word "quarry," to insert the word "canal." He said the object of this Amendment was to bring canal employés within the Bill. He did not wish to press the claims of these employés beyond this—that they were a deserving section, and their pay was small, and that the disadvantage of leaving them out was that it created serious anomalies. He quite admitted that in the case of canals owned by railway companies it might be open to question whether the employés on those canals might not be covered by the Bill. But it ought not to be left in a state of uncertainty. A question, he supposed, would arise as to whether, under the Regulation of Railways Act 1871, defining "railways," the employés on canals which had been transferred to railway companies might be included under the Bill as framed. But there were a good many canals that were not owned by railway companies. Take, for example, the Manchester Ship Canal, the Gloucester Canal, the Leeds and Liverpool, and many others in this country—none of these were owned by railway companies. Therefore they would have this anomalous state of the law—that upon series of canals the employés, if injured, would be within the provisions of this Bill, but directly the canal boats got on to another section of the same series of canals which was not the property of railway companies, they would be outside its provisions. Another point he ventured to make was this: In the definition of an "engineering work" a canal during construction was within the operation of the Bill. Thus a contractor, while constructing a canal, was responsible for the employés upon that canal during its construction, but immediately the construction ceased, and the canal passed into the hands of a chartered company or a limited company, or possibly a railway company, who took over the work, then the employé would be deprived altogether of the rights he had under the Bill against the contractor. That seemed very anomalous indeed. Further, they knew that it was often the duty of the contractor to maintain the canal for a certain period after the works were turned over to the person or the company for whom they were constructed. Now, as long as the employés were simply maintaining the work, they would be under the control of the contractor. The work would be an "engineering work," and an employé, when injured, if he were a servant of the contractor, would be entitled to compensation under the Bill. But if his fellow servant, working alongside of him, were injured, if he were not engaged technically upon an "engineering work," he would not be covered by the Bill, and the anomaly to which he had directed the attention of the Committee would arise. He hoped that, having regard to the singular anomalies that would arise under the Bill in its present form, and the justice of extending its provisions to a most laborious section of the community engaged in somewhat dangerous work, the Government would see their way to extend the Bill to them.

*Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY said he was afraid the Government were not prepared to accept the Amendment. If the hon. Member said that the exclusion of canals might involve some anomalies, he was quite prepared to admit it. He had not denied that the exclusion of certain industries would give rise to anomalies under the Bill. But the line of demarcation was very near and close. They had gone on the general principle of limiting the Bill to dangerous trades, and the Committee so far had accepted it. If they were going to put in all canals because, in the first instance there was a clear line between canals owned by railway companies and those by private owners, and, in the second, because of the difficulty of drawing a very clear line between the finish of the construction of a canal and its occupation or user—then he thought they would be getting into very great difficulties. He did not think, whatever sympathy they might have with the population concerned in the working of the canals, that there was any exceptional danger in the employment, and certainly there was no reason why they should be included in the Bill if they were not also to include that large class of the industrial population whom the Committee had already agreed to exclude—namely, the agricultural labourers. ["Hear, hear!"]

Sir HENRY FOWLER (Wolverhampton, E.) said he could understand the Government saying, with regard to the agricultural labourers and other trades not specified in the Bill, "We will not include them," but he understood them now to say: "We will include a canal when it is the property of a railway company, but when it is not the property of a railway company the unfortunate people who are employed upon it shall be exempted." He thought there was no parallel between the exclusion of the agricultural labourers and the exclusion of one section of canal employés, while another section was let in. He might say that the reason why he rose on this question was this: The district of South Staffordshire was traversed by the Birmingham Canal as if it were a street. There were hardly any works in the whole of South Staffordshire that were not in communication with the Birmingham Canal. Now that canal was practically, though not technically, the property of the London and North Western

Railway Company, who guaranteed a dividend of 4 per cent. Therefore practically the Birmingham Canal was the property of the London and North Western Company, and yet, as they were not technically its owners, it would be outside the Bill. Thus a large class of operatives were not to have the protection of this Bill, whereas some trivial canal in another part of the county which actually belonged to a railway company was to have that protection. If that was so, he was at a loss to see what ground there was for refusing the Amendment and depriving operatives of their remedy, owing entirely to the position of the owners of the canal. ["Hear, hear!"]

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Sir RICHARD WEBSTER, Isle of Wight) pointed out that if the Amendment were accepted it would not be the ownership of the canal which would be included, it would simply be the small boat owners who employed one or two men. The canal company, practically speaking, merely received tolls, the canal-trade being carried on by the owners of barges employing one or two hands. The fact that the real property was owned by a railway company did not bring it within any of the principles by which this Bill had been supported. No one could suggest that this was a dangerous trade, and if the House was wise in excluding ships it would surely be wise in excluding the less dangerous trade carried on by barges.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS called upon Mr. Tennant to move his Amendment, that being the next which was in order.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucester, Forest of Dean) inquired why the Amendment relating to light railways had been passed over.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS considered that the proper place for raising such an Amendment would be in that part of the clause which dealt with the definition of a railway.

*MR. H. J. TENNANT (Berwickshire) moved in Sub-section (1) after the word "quarry," to insert the word "workshop." He had occasion, on another stage of the Bill, to call attention to the fact that there were more than 34,000 factories in this country in which less than ten people were employed, and if the burden was a fit one for these people to bear, he maintained that it was equally fit for the occupiers of large workshops to bear. Again, he had called attention to the case of electricity. He did say it was very important to recognise that transformer workshops were places in which there was a great deal of danger to the persons employed, and that they should come under the Bill. Mr. Richmond, one of the Factory Inspectors, stated that out of 74 fatal accidents in his district, only six occurred through machinery. He could not help thinking the Government must see there was a strong case on the ground of the number of accidents which occurred in workshops, for including them in the scope of the Bill. Section 93 of the Factory Act of 1878 gave power to make any factory or part of a factory a different factory or a different workshop for the purposes of the Act. A man might be employed in a factory on Monday and on Tuesday. On Wednesday he might be in a workshop in the same employment, and might fall down a staircase and break his leg, or sustain other injuries, and what sort of law would he consider it when he knew that had he been injured the day before he would have been able to get compensation, but because he happened to be employed that particular day in a workshop he would not get compensation. He maintained that if they denied to the people in workshops the benefits they were giving to large classes of persons under the Bill, instead of having brought a boon to the working classes of this country they would have produced in the minds of these persons who were not able to get compensation the impression that they had been flagrantly and unjustly dealt with. He begged to move the Amendment.

*SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY was afraid he could only reply to the hon. Gentleman in the same spirit that he had replied to similar Amendments. The inclusion of "workshop" would mean a considerable addition to the classes of industry brought under this Bill, and although he did not say that that in itself was an objection to the proposal, yet he did say that all the arguments which the Government had endeavoured to enforce upon the House since the introduction of the Bill applied emphatically in this case, and if they had in the first instance included workshops in the Bill the satisfaction with which the Measure would have been received might have been very different from what it had been. The distinction was one which was drawn by the present law. He was not denying that there would be difficulties in the carrying out of the Measure, but the Government had contended throughout that when they were introducing a new principle in a tentative manner, they were justified in acting as other countries had done and applying it in the first instance to the more dangerous trades. The hon. Member talked of the great number of accidents which occurred in workshops under the Factory and Workshops Act. That was perfectly true, but he should like to repeat the figures he gave to the House on a previous occasion. This was the very first year in which they had any official Report of the number of accidents in workshops as compared with factories, and he found that in the first three months of the year there were only two fatal accidents in workshops against 188 in factories, the number of persons employed in workshops being larger than the number employed in factories. The number, too, of non-fatal accidents in workshops reported in these three months was only 34 as against 9,247 for a similar period in the factories of this country. If, in favour of the Amendment, it was argued that workshops were as dangerous as factories, then these figures showed there was a real and substantial difference in point of danger between trades as carried on in factories and workshops. This might not be a conclusive reason, but it was a reason why the Government should resist the inclusion of workshops in the Bill. Over and over again they had impressed on the Committee—and so far with great success—that the Bill did not pretend to apply to all the industries to which they would wish to see it applied, but they applied it to all those industries to which they believed they saw their way to apply it satisfactorily. He trusted the Committee would support the Government in the position they had taken.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON (Tower Hamlets, Poplar) regretted the speech of the Home Secretary, because he himself and his hon. Friends understood that if in Committee on this Bill they could show that a particular industry had a special claim to inclusion, and this did not affect the principle of the Bill, the Government would be prepared to consider the matter on its merits. The Government were perhaps wise, when introducing the Bill, in not applying it to too many trades. The Opposition had no desire to "smother the Bill with Amendments." The Government must admit that the Bill had been received with greater favour than they anticipated, and when Members of the Opposition desired to extend the Bill to other trades, they did not wish to destroy the Bill or smother it with Amendments, because they believed the country generally accepted the principle of the Bill. The Amendment was unlike some others that had been proposed. It involved no new principle or departure, like the Amendment on health which the Government resisted as beyond the scope of the Bill. It could not be argued, as it was in regard to sailors, that the position of persons in workshops was so different from those in factories and docks that they should be kept outside the Bill. All the tendency of modern legislation, while keeping up a nominal distinction, had been to level workshops up to factories and place them under the same regulations to prevent accidents. Fifty per cent. of the factories which would come under this Bill were factories in which less than 10 persons worked. The Home Secretary implied that if the Bill were extended to small employers it would bring about their ruin, because it was impossible that they could compensate their workmen. Accidents, fatal and non-fatal, were of infrequent occurrence in workshops, and so small consequently would be the liability cast on the owners of workshops that it was not likely to effect their ruin. The Home Secretary said the responsibility thrown on large employers of labour by the Bill would be really no more than they, out of their generosity, gave in compensation to their men. That might be the case as regarded workmen in factories, but when they came to the class of workshops with which the Committee were dealing, the labour was less skilled, the employers had not the same regard for the welfare of those whom they employed, or the same public eye directed to their proceedings. As regarded the relations between masters and men, employés in workshops required statutory compensation rather than those in factories, because they did not get compassionate allowances. The majority of employés in workshops consisted of women and children, and where there were men also they had few trades unions to take up their cases. They did not belong to friendly societies, and, when injured, as regarded the possibility of obtaining a weekly allowance from a trades union or friendly society, they were in a far worse position than people engaged in factories. Under all the circumstances to which he had alluded, he hoped the Government would reconsider the exclusion of workshops from the Bill.

MR. G. W. WOLFF (Belfast, E.) said that of the logic of the Amendment and the justice of including workshop employés in the Bill there could not be the slightest doubt. When miners, railway employés, and other workmen were included, there was absolutely no justice, right, or logic in keeping anyone else out of it. But as far as he and most of them understood this Bill, it was not based on justice, logic, or anything of that sort. [*Opposition cheers.*] It rested on expediency, and the result was not whether it was right to include workshop employés, but whether it was expedient, and he was strongly of opinion that the Government were right in saying it was not expedient. The Bill was a new departure in the relations between employers and employed, and he could perfectly understand that under these circumstances the Government should wish to confine it at present to dangerous trades and see how it worked before they extended it to other trades. If the Bill was found to work well, nothing could prevent its application to other trades than those mentioned in it. Probably next year, but certainly the year after, the trades now excluded from the Bill would be included in it. Meantime, there would be an opportunity of discovering what the defects of the Bill were. The Government had distinctly declined to include other trades at present, and it was waste of time for hon. Members opposite to try to persuade them to do so, especially when they knew that with the majority they had, they could do whatever they pleased. [*Opposition laughter and* "hear, hear!"]

MR. REGINALD McKENNA (Monmouthshire, N.) asked if the Government really declined to include in the Bill any more trades than those mentioned?

MR. CHAMBERLAIN: I think the Committee are fully possessed now of the mind of the Government on this question. I entirely agree with almost every word which has fallen from my hon. Friend the Member for Belfast, except that I did not say the Bill was not based on justice—[*laughter*]—because I really think it is based on a desire to do absolute justice to all who come within its purview. [*Cheers.*] Only we have said, and have stated again and again as plainly as it is possible to state it, that we considered when we introduced this great and novel principle that if we at once applied it indiscriminately to all trades and all classes of workmen, we should not have the ghost of a chance of passing our Bill. Therefore we conceived it to be expedient to limit it to trades in which the demand for reform was most urgent, and to see whether it cannot be safely extended further. But we have said distinctly that we cannot undertake to add to the Bill any of these great classes, such as agricultural labourers, seamen, and those employed in workshops, and, further, that we confine ourselves to the limitations already existing in different Acts of Parliament to which we refer in the Bill, and the only exceptions which we can make are with regard to building, laundries, and machinery plant, in respect of which we are putting down our own Amendments to the Bill.

MR. H. H. ASQUITH (Fife, E.): I think that after that declaration it would probably be taking up the time of the Committee to go on discussing in detail arguments in reference to particular categories of workmen whom we know the Government are not going to include. ["Hear, hear!"] We understand the position; logic, my right hon. Friend admits, has been banished, and justice, or, at any rate, perfect justice has been adjourned until the Greek Kalends. In the meantime, we must make the best we can of this position; the Government are the masters of the situation, and I venture to appeal to my hon. Friends to accept the situation, and to come as speedily as we can to the discussion of matters which are debateable ground. [" Hear, hear!"]

Mr. ABEL THOMAS said that he would like to call attention to the result of the refusal of the Secretary for the Colonies in this case. It would specially affect the carpentering and joinery trade. If there was a gas engine outside in the yard by which a certain amount of sawing was done by men at work inside, the building came within the definition of a factory; but if there was no gas engine outside the yard they did not come within the Act at all. If a man carried on a large business with the same machinery on one side of a road, with a gate across the fence leading into the road, and on the other side of the road had very large workshops where hundreds of men were engaged, those men would not come within this Act, while if they happened to be working in the yard 50 or 60 yards away from it on the same side of the road, they would come within the Act. That was an extremely inconsistent position, and he thought it was expedient that that kind of work should be included.

Question put, "That the word 'workshop' be there inserted."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 115; Noes, 191.—(Division List, No. 229.)

*Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY said that, in accordance with what he said the previous evening to the hon. Member for Leicester on the question of buildings, and in fulfilment of his promise, he had placed an Amendment on the Paper. His proposal was intended to include not only those buildings in which steam machinery or other mechanical power was used, but also buildings to which at present the Factory Acts applied. His Amendment was to make the Bill apply only to employment on, in, or about a railway, factory, mine, quarry, or engineering work,

"and to employment on, in, or about any building exceeding 30 ft. in height which is being constructed or repaired by means of a scaffolding, or on which machinery driven by steam, water, or other mechanical power is being used for the purpose of the construction or repair thereof."

He moved the insertion of those words.

Mr. HENRY BROADHURST (Leicester) acknowledged that in this Amendment the Home Secretary had redeemed the promise made the previous evening, but he regretted that the right hon. Gentleman had not gone further in the direction of the Amendment which had been suggested by including all places where building material was being prepared, and where buildings were being constructed. The limitation of height to 30ft. would only produce further anomalies. He pointed out, moreover, that the ordinary practice was to erect buildings in an irregular manner—that was to say, one end of the building was sometimes erected at a quicker rate than the other, so that one end might be 30ft. high and the other end 25ft. high. It would be curious to see how a Judge would construe this portion of the clause in a case of that kind, and whether or not the entire building would come within the scope of the Bill.

Mr. LEES KNOWLES (Salford, W.) suggested to the Government that it was desirable to insert in the definition clause the definition of a "building," and to make some reference to the Factory Acts. He agreed with the view that the height of 30ft. was an arbitrary limit.

Mr. S. WOODS (Essex, Walthamstow) moved the omission of all the words in the Home Secretary's Amendment after the word "building," so as to get rid of all limitations. He objected to any limitation being fixed in regard to the building trade. The building trade was one of the most important and highly skilled trades in the country, and he thought it came within the category of a dangerous trade. He could not understand the distinction drawn between a building under 30ft. in height and a building over 30ft. in height, and it was anomalous that a man should be able to claim compensation for a fall of 30ft., while another man employed on the same building should not be able to claim for a fall of 28ft. An expert in the trade had stated that there were as many accidents under 30ft. as over 30ft., and it was, therefore, just to contend that no distinction should be made.

Mr. J. SAMUEL (Stockton) asked what was meant by height—was the measurement taken from the street level to the eaves or the top of the roof? A large number of houses in the North of England were constructed about 30 ft. high from the level of the street to the eaves.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN said that the Government had adopted as a convenient definition the words of the Factory and Workshops Act, which had already received statutory interpretation. That definition had really the further advantage that it would to a considerable extent relieve the smaller builders from the obligations of the Bill. The Government felt that there was a considerable difference in the position of a small man employing one or two labourers and that of a man engaged in large contracting operations.

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.) appealed to the Government, seeing they had agreed to include three-fourths of the building trade, to bring in the remaining fourth. The portion excluded represented that which stood in the greatest need of protection. Those builders who undertook large contracts were usually men who employed the more experienced workmen, whereas the smaller builder was in nine cases out of ten the sweater. He engaged inexperienced workmen, and put on two or three men where four or five were required for the job. And why should the small builder not be subject to the same liabilities as the owner of a small factory or workshop? In the Operative Plasterers' Society alone he found that last year they had no fewer than four deaths, five accidents causing total disablement, and 250 other accidents, or 16 per cent. of accidents in that particular trade. A very large amount of plaster work was done in buildings under 30 ft. high, where there was no scaffolding and no machinery used.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis) reminded the Secretary for the Colonies that this Act would be put in force by the County Courts, and therefore the statutory interpretation which had hitherto obtained would be of no avail at all. Passing from that, he could not see why, in addition to height, they should superimpose the two conditions of scaffolding and machinery. Surely if a building exceded 30 ft. in height the Act should apply whether there was scaffolding or machinery or not. A man who fell from the Tower of Babel would have no compensation under this clause; and so would the steeple-jack who, without scaffolding or machinery, ascended to the top of the Trafalgar Monument the other day. The height was the thing, and the addition of scaffolding or machinery should make no difference at all. Another effect of the Government Amendment would be to discourage sound employers and the use of machinery in the building trade. The logical thing would have been to refer to the building trade generally, and define the term in the definition clause.

MR. TENNANT asked whether there would be any objection to inserting the word "demolish" after the word "construct?"

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY said that there would be no objection to inserting the two words "repair" and "demolish."

MR. W. R. BOUSFIELD (Hackney, N.) said that the question was one of drawing a line somewhere, and he was only concerned to see the line drawn in a practical way. He had no sympathy with those who tried to extend this tentative Measure first in one direction and then in another; but the line proposed to be drawn by the Government was not practical. The Government were going to make legal rights depend upon an exact measurement of 30ft., and yet they were leaving wholly vague the methods by which the measurement was to be determined. Were pinnacles and weathercocks to be counted in the height of a building? Was the measurement to be taken from the concrete, and, in the case of sloping ground, from the lowest point? Was the Act only to apply when a building in course of erection had passed the height of 30ft.? It really did not matter in the building trade whether this experiment were made a little larger or smaller, and he thought the words "30 feet" had better be omitted.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN said that the difference of opinion was perfectly clear. Some hon. Gentlemen desired the provision to be extended, and the Government could not agree to it. Upon that point the decision of the Committee must be taken. If the anomalies which would arise under any definition were to be discussed, the Committee would never get to an end of its labours. The Government were anxious to meet any suggestion, if doing so did not involve lengthened discussion; and they would accept the insertion of the word "demolish" if it would not add to the controversial matter in the Bill.

Mr. E. ROBERTSON (Dundee) said that after the concession of the Home Secretary he should not move the Amendment of which he had given notice making the Bill co-extensive with the Notification of Accidents Bill.

*Sir ALFRED HICKMAN (Wolverhampton, W.) asked the Government to say whether they regarded these exclusions limitations as vital to the Bill?

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN said that he could not say that a point of this kind was vital to the Bill; but the Government had clearly declared how far they were prepared to go. They could not advise the Committee to go further.

Mr. ALFRED BILLSON (Halifax) thought that the builder would be able to insure better if all his men were covered by the insurance. The question of the height of the building did not come in at all.

Mr. W. ALLAN (Gateshead) asked the Home Secretary to give him a practical definition of "30 feet high." [*Ministerial laughter.*] If the height was not clearly defined it would be the source of endless litigation between workmen and their employers. ["Hear, hear!"]

*Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY said the Government had been charged with not having sufficiently included the building trades in the Bill. They had gone as far as they could go in that direction in the Amendment which he had moved, and they had taken the words "30 feet high" from the Act of 1885.

Mr. ALLAN said he felt sure that both workmen and employers would be satisfied if the right hon. Gentleman inserted after "30 feet" the words "from the ground level." ["Hear, hear!"]

Mr. F. A. CHANNING (Northampton, E.) said that what they wanted to ascertain was how the Courts would interpret "30 feet."

*Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY: Who can tell?

Mr. CHANNING asked if the Attorney General could give any information as to whether there had been any cases decided under the Act of 1885 which threw light on the question?

Question put, "That the words of the Amendment as far as the word 'constructed,' inclusive, stand part of the proposed Amendment."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 219; Noes, 120.—(Division List, No. 230.)

Mr. TENNANT moved after the word "constructed" in the proposed Amendment to insert the word "demolished."

*Sir C. DILKE said that a good many people had suggested this Amendment, but he was bound to say it was a rather dangerous one. Buildings were demolished by people called "knackers," who were a special class in themselves; and if this Amendment were accepted there would be admitted one of the poorest class of wretched employers from whom the difficulty of obtaining compensation would be the greatest.

Amendment amended by inserting, after the word "constructed," the word "demolished," and after the word "construction," in the last line, the word "demolition."

Words, as amended, inserted.

Amendments made: Sub-section (2), first paragraph, "1871" struck out, and "1873" inserted—(*The Attorney General.*) Sub-section (2), second paragraph, the word "or" omitted—(*Sir Matthew White Ridley*).

*Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY moved to insert the words "machinery or plant," after the word "warehouse."

Mr. E. H. PICKERSGILL (Bethnal Green, S.W.) pointed out that this Amendment raised the question mooted last night, but reserved for further consideration. The Government would be landed in a very strange anomaly if this Amendment were accepted. Sometimes ships were unloaded at the dock side, and at other times into lighters. If the unloading process went on at the quay the docker was protected, but if it took place into lighters the docker was not protected. Often a ship lay in mid-stream, and her unloading took place into lighters while she was in that position. The men employed in that case ought, he thought, to be protected. He, therefore, moved, as an Amendment to the Amendment, to insert the words:—

"or as far as relates to the process of loading or unloading every ship while in port, harbour, or river, and all machinery or plant used in that process."

*The CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS thought this was a separate Amendment.

Mr. PICKERSGILL pointed out that his words also included "machinery and plant." His Amendment extended the effect of the Home Secretary's Amendment, and, therefore, he respectfully submitted, that with the usual practice, it would be in order here.

*The CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS said the Home Secretary had the same words in before the hon. Member, and he was, therefore, entitled to get the decision of the Committee first. If the Committee rejected the right hon. Gentleman's words, then the hon. Member would be in order.

Mr. PICKERSGILL said that would make the wording of the clause extremely clumsy. It would not meet his purpose if the Home Secretary's words were first submitted.

*The CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS accepted the Amendment as an Amendment to the proposed Amendment.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL said that if this Amendment to the Amendment were accepted, it would include all cases of loading or unloading of ships by ship's tackle whether in dock or in mid-stream and would impose a liability on the shipowner indirectly. What the Government proposed was that where the machinery of the dock was being used for the purpose of loading or unloading a ship at the quay it should come under the Bill; but if that machinery was also used for unloading into a lighter, it would also, he took it, come under the Bill. They must draw the line somewhere, and, as the Colonial Secretary had pointed out more than once, they had thought it wise to draw it at the definition, which had already been accepted, of the loading and unloading by machinery which was part of the dock premises, and which was used as the dock premises. They could not possibly accept the Amendment, which would be, to a large extent, negativing the decision which the Committee, indirectly, came to last night.

Mr. PICKERSGILL submitted the Attorney General was mistaken in supposing that the Home Secretary's words would cover the particular case he had quoted of machinery on the quay which was being used to convey goods from the ship into the river on the other side, for this reason, that the words which the Government proposed to insert were "machinery or plant," to which the provisions of the Factory Act of 1895 applied. The "machinery or plant" to which the Factory Act of 1895 applied were machinery or plant which were used in the process of conveying the goods to or from the quay. Therefore, it was clear that these words would not cover the case of goods being dealt with even with the gear of the dock company.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL said he believed that the cases to which he referred, in which a crane could be used for conveying goods on to the other side of the ship, were very exceptional cases, but the real strength of the Amendment was the tackle and gear of the ship which was being used for that purpose, and in that case it would be excluded.

Mr. PICKERSGILL asked if the hon. and learned Gentleman would consent to take out the words "either to or therefrom." That was all that was required to meet this particular case.

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON said this matter was fully discussed in the Debates on the Factory Bill of 1895, and he thought that the sense of the House was that if words could be formed it should extend to the loading and unloading of ships, though they might not be actually attached to the quay and were loading from or into lighters. There was no question here of extending it to the sailors. It was entirely a matter with reference to stevedores and dockers, and if the Government would consent to consider the matter on Report, so as to see whether it was not possible, with regard to them, to extend this protection which they had now when the ship was attached to the quay, and whether some words could not be adopted to bring these men under the protection of the Bill, from which they were at present excluded, simply because the ship was not attached to a quay, he thought they would meet the objections which had been raised.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN was a little surprised at the appeal which had just been made by the hon. Member opposite, because he thought he thoroughly accepted the view taken just now by his hon. and learned Friend that it would be wise to accept the definitions already laid down in the Factory Act. The Government would not engage in the extremely difficult task of amending the definitions of the Factory Act. He did not say that they might not be able to amend those definitions in many particulars, but it would be too great a task for them to undertake in that Bill.

Captain NORTON said that by the refusal of the Government to accept the Amendment to the Amendment, a grave injustice was being done to the stevedores. The dividing line would be far better drawn if it were to refer simply to those men whose occupation was docking, and who lived on shore, and who were not part of the actual complement of a ship's crew.

Sir FRANCIS EVANS (Southampton) desired to ask the Attorney General a question. If a ship was alongside a quay, and one of the shore gang, while working a winch on board towards the quay met with an accident, he presumed he would come within the range of the Bill. But if, while working at the same winch, he met with an accident while lowering anything into a barge alongside, he was without the Bill. If that were so, that man would be in a very awkward position.

Mr. PICKERSGILL said he had raised a small but very important point, and if the Government would agree, either now or on Report, to withdraw the words "either to or therefrom," so as to cover the case of unloading with the gear or crane of the dock company into a lighter he would not divide. If they would not consent to do that he would divide the Committee.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL said that if they were to at once agree to withdraw those words they would have to insert a clause repeating again Section 23 of the Factory Act. He thought the hon. and learned Member must see that to enter into this kind of discussion was just one of those very difficult and complicated matters with which the Colonial Secretary declined to deal. With regard to the question asked by the hon. Member for Southampton, he certainly should have thought that the machinery referred to in the Factory Act was the machinery belonging to the dock, wharf, warehouse, or quay. He was not aware whether there had been a decision on that point, but he should think that was the intention of the Factory Act, and did not include machinery on board a vessel. The point was one he should inquire into before giving a positive answer.

Mr. ASQUITH, who was indistinctly heard, was understood to say that "machinery or plant," to whomsoever it belonged, whether the ship's tackle or the dock tackle, which was actually used for conveying cargo to or from a ship, came within the intention of the Factory Act.

Mr. ABEL THOMAS thought that the words must cover all plant.

Question put, "That those words be added to the proposed Amendment."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 113; Noes, 217.—(Division List, No. 231.)

Words inserted.

**Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY* moved in Sub-section (2), second paragraph after "1895," to insert the words "and includes every laundry worked by steam, water, or other mechanical power."

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. J. A. PEASE proposed to add to the words last inserted in the paragraph, the following words, which he thought did not go beyond the principle the Government had laid down:—

"also includes every shipbuilding yard, whether or not such shipbuilding yard is one wherein or within the close, curtilage, or precincts of which steam, water, or other mechanical power is used; also includes vessels under construction or repair, or any other employment in which the operation of plating or rivetting is performed."

His object was to prevent ship owners and ship builders evading the obvious intention of the Government to include the shipbuilding trade within the four corners of the Bill. As the Bill at present stood, in the case of any shipbuilding yard where machinery was not used, or in any shop away from a yard where machinery was used, it was possible to contend that it did not come within the Bill.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN, interposing: This Amendment is not on the Paper. Would it not be better—I make the suggestion, but, of course, if he insists, the hon. Member has a right to press his Amendment—but would it not be better that he should put it on the Paper for Report. It is rather lengthy, and it is impossible to understand unless we have the words before us.

MR. J. A. PEASE: I am quite willing to have the Amendment considered on Report. It is one in connection with which I moved last night. I withdrew that Amendment in order that this matter might be considered at this stage, but I should be willing to withdraw if the right hon. Gentleman will undertake that it shall be considered on Report.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN: Yes, certainly.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. THOMAS BAYLEY (Derbyshire, Chesterfield) wished to propose at the end of the paragraph to insert the words:—

"'Light railway,' has the same meaning as in the Light Railways Act 1896; 'tramway' has the same meaning as in the Tramways Act 1870."

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS ruled that it could not be put after the rejection last night of the proposal to include "tramways" in the Bill.

MR. BOUSFIELD moved in the next paragraph to leave out "1887," and to insert "1872." He quoted the definitions of "mine" in the Acts cited in the clause as drafted, and asked the Government if they thought it was worth while to have any definition at all? The Coal Mines Regulation Act of 1887 referred to the definition in the Metalliferous Mines Regulation Act of 1872, and that stated that a metalliferous mine was any mine excepting the mines included in the Coal Mines Regulation Act 1872. He put it to the Government whether it was worth while, under the circumstances, to trouble about definitions at all. They might just as well leave it "mines."

*SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY said he should not like to expunge the words without consulting the draftsman.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. BOUSFIELD moved in Sub-section (2) to leave out the words "a quarry under the Quarries Act 1894," and to insert the words—

"every place (not being a mine) in which persons work in getting slate, stone, coprolites, or other minerals."

The hon. Member said that the definition of quarry which he proposed differed from that in the Quarries Act only by the omission of the limitation of depth to 20 ft. It seemed absurd to make the right to compensation of a workman depend on a precise measurement of depth, which might be from the bottom of a muddy pool in the quarry to the top of a spoil heap above. It would be far better to omit this limitation. However, he understood the Government were willing to consider the matter on Report, so he would not press it further.

*SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY promised to consider the question.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. FENWICK (for Mr. HEDDERWICK, Wick Burghs) moved in Sub-section (2), after the word "construction," to insert the words "alteration or demolition."

MR. CHAMBERLAIN said he could not accept this Amendment as it stood. They never heard of the "demolition" of railways or docks or harbours or canals. He did not know that such a thing ever did occur.

*MR. J. WILSON (Durham, Mid) said there were extensions and many alterations in railways.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN asked whether the hon. Member would be content if he put in "alteration?"

MR. J. W. LOGAN (Leicester, Harborough) said that demolitions went on when railways were widened.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Words "or alterations" inserted after the word "construction."

MR. LAWSON WALTON moved in Sub-section (2), after the word "canal" to insert the word "street." It would be within the knowledge of the Committee that sewers were nearly always constructed with a new street, and that the work was nearly always done by the same contractors and the same workmen. The work was continued, the street was made and the sewer settled at the same time, therefore, it would be a little anomalous if the same body of men were under the protection of the Act when below the surface of the road, and outside the Act when above the surface, and that they would only have protection when in the cutting.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN asked the hon. and learned Member to give the Government time to consider this proposal. They were not unfavourably disposed towards the Amendment, but they would like time to answer it.

MR. LAWSON WALTON said he was quite willing to allow the matter to stand over until the Report stage, and he would withdraw his Amendment now.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY moved in Sub-section (2) to leave out the words "building or."

Amendment agreed to.

MR. BOUSFIELD moved in Sub-section (2) to leave out the words "machinery driven by." His object was to make the Bill uniform with the language used in the Factory Acts.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY moved, as agreed upon, to insert the word "alteration."

Amendment agreed to.

MR. CHARLES HARRISON (Plymouth) moved in the same paragraph after the word "person," to insert the words "whether under the age of 21 years or above that age." These words, he pointed out, were in the Act of 1875, and he thought they should be introduced here to prevent ambiguity, and so as to insure that even if a person injured was under 21 years of age he would be entitled to compensation.

*SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY remarked that though the words might have been quite necessary in the Act of 1875, he was informed that they were quite unnecessary now.

Amendment negatived.

MR. HARRISON moved in the same paragraph after the word "agreement," to insert the words "whether made before or after the passing of this Act." He observed that these words, again, were in the clause of the Employers' Liability Act which had been worked up to the present time, and he considered they should be inserted in this Bill.

*SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY said the same remark applied to this as to the previous Amendment. There was no necessity for the words, and that being so they ought not to be inserted.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause, as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 3,—

APPLICATION TO WORKMEN IN EMPLOYMENT OF CROWN.

(1.) This Act shall not apply to persons in the naval or military service of the Crown, but otherwise shall apply to any employment by or under the Crown to which this Act would apply if the employer were a private person.

(2.) The Treasury may, by warrant laid before Parliament, modify for the purposes of this Act their warrant made under section one of the Superannuation Act 1887.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES moved, after the word "Act," in the first line of the clause, to omit the words,

"shall not apply to persons in the naval or military service of the Crown, but otherwise"

He said he did not in the least suggest that persons in the naval or military service of the Crown who were engaged in active naval or military operations proper should be brought within the purview of the Bill, but he claimed for them that when they were employed as workmen, in the sense that that expression was understood by the Bill, they should come under the same rule as other persons who were in the Bill, and should not, because they were nominally in the naval or military service of the Crown, be deprived of such advantages as the Bill gave. Take the case of a dock labourer employed in the making of a dock for the construction of which machinery was employed, the work being under the superintendence of an Engineer officer. The dock labourer was worth £300 to his family, but the Engineer officer was not worth a farthing. Why should this be so? The Engineer officer, although in the military service, was not then employed in military operations, but was engaged in superintending the workmen at the dock, and, if the Amendment were accepted, he would be in the same position as the men who came under the Bill. Soldiers and sailors were constantly employed by their commanding officers, as workmen, and surely a soldier who was injured whilst engaged in cleaning windows ought not to be left out of the purview of the Bill. He thought the Amendment was a reasonable one, and he trusted it would be accepted by the Government.

*SIR C. DILKE was of opinion the Government could not be expected to consider the Amendment at this stage. He feared the effect of the Bill, without the Amendment, would be to increase the employment of military as against civilian labour in purely civilian work, which would be a bad thing, both for the labour and the military world. The evidence before the Committee on Government contracts showed that an increasing amount of civilian work was done by soldiers—which took them off their proper military duties—for the purpose of saving money, and he was afraid that the effect of a Bill under which the Government would have to pay heavy compensation to their civilian labourers who were injured would have the tendency to make them employ soldiers to a still greater extent. However, the difficulties raised by the Amendment were great, and he was not prepared to face them.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN said the Government were in the same position. The right hon. Gentleman, however, was wrong in supposing that, if these persons were left out of the Bill, that would be any temptation to the Government to employ them in work on which they would not otherwise be employed. He would point out that where Government servants were injured in the course of their employment at the present time something was done for them, although there was no statutory liability. He believed that was the practice in the great workshops at Woolwich and elsewhere. ["Hear, hear!"] The Government were quite willing to consider the matter, but they should have to consult the two Departments concerned. He could not say anything now, but on the Report stage he might be able to do so.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES would, on that understanding, withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 4,—

PROVISION AS TO EXISTING CONTRACTS.

4. Any contract existing at the commencement of this Act, whereby a workman relinquishes any right to compensation from the employer for personal injury arising out of and in the course of his employment, shall not, for the purposes of this Act, be deemed to continue after the time at which the workman's contract of service would determine if notice of the determination thereof were given at the commencement of this Act.

Clause ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 5,—

COMMENCEMENT OF ACT AND SHORT TITLE.

(1.) This Act shall come into operation on the *first day of January, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight.*

(2.) This Act may be cited as the Workmen's Compensation Act 1897.

MR. H. SETON-KARR (St. Helen's) proposed to leave out the words "*one thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight,*" and to insert "*one thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine,*" so as to postpone the operation of the Bill for a year. He ventured to think the Amendment involved considerations of great importance. He had had some conferences with the right hon. Baronet in charge of the Bill, and the impression conveyed to his mind was that the right hon. Gentleman was prepared to listen favourably to him. He had also had some conversation with the Attorney General, and, considering the importance of the subject, he hoped the Committee would pardon him if he occupied a little time in stating his case. The practical effect of the Bill was to put a tax upon certain classes for the benefit of the whole community. This Bill has been introduced without notice to the constituencies and without the parties interested having had time to realise the effect it would have upon their industry. He therefore contended that plenty of time should be given before the Bill came into operation. All the small employers would be compelled to federate. The figures that had been given as to the effect in the coal-mining industry differed very materially. The Government had been appealed to to give the figures, and they had not done so. At any rate, different authorities differed very widely. The rate of insurance against employers' liability was at the present moment very low, about 3s. 6d. to 5s. per cent., but it was likely to rise to 40s. or 50s. per cent. if the whole liability under this Bill had to be insured against. The Debate the previous evening on the inclusion of agriculture in the Bill was really one of the best arguments he could use, for in that instance the uncertain effect of the Bill was pleaded as a reason why agriculture should not be introduced. Everything that had been said with regard to the small farmer in connection with this Bill applied in an equal or even a greater degree to small colliery owners; but all he was asking for now was that the small colliery owners should have an opportunity of federating amongst themselves and that time should be given to them to prepare for the liability that would be imposed upon them. He had been told by an hon. Member of the House that he had private information that if the Bill passed bankers would not extend the same credit to collieries which they were giving at present. That was a practical effect of the Bill. That was a thing the owners must provide against. He would like to give a few figures with reference to a great industry in the constituency which he represented. The borough of St. Helen's was the seat of the glass trade. Something like one-third of the inhabitants were dependent for their daily bread on the glass trade. That trade consumed no less than 10,000 tons of coal a week throughout the year. That meant, at 2d. a ton, an impost of £4,300 a year, which with the 1 per cent. to meet the glass trade employers' own liability to their 25,000 employés, would impose a burden of £8,300 on that trade. Somebody would have to pay that. They were told that the consumer could be made to pay, but, so far as the coal industry was concerned, it was not possible, in his opinion, to make the consumer pay. For the last seven years the trade unions had been endeavouring to put up the price of coal and wages, and they had absolutely and entirely failed.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS said he thought the hon. Member was now dealing with matters from a Second Reading point of view. The hon. Member was entitled to use arguments why the Bill should be delayed coming into operation, but he was now travelling rather beyond that.

MR. SETON-KARR thought that these arguments directly affected the postponement of the operation of the Bill, and showed that time should be allowed to the men who were affected by it. He was only using these arguments for the purpose of showing that. In considering on whose shoulders the burden would fall, they had to remember the increasing competition with foreign coal fields and glass industries. Let him tell the House the position of the glass trade. [*Cries of* "Oh!"] Half the glass works in the country had been shut up during the past 30 years, and the importation of plate and sheet glass had enormously increased; yet upon this struggling British industry they proposed to throw a new heavy burden. Surely, in such circumstances, time ought to be given to insure against the new conditions, either by federation or by insuring in the ordinary commercial companies. The economic law of supply and demand prevented the burden of their compensation being put on the shoulders of the consumer. Foreign coalfields had been discovered. The price could not be raised on the foreign consumer, and, if it was raised on the home consumer it would inflict a fresh burden on an industry which was already struggling with very serious difficulties. There was one other reason why he submitted that the operation of the Bill should be postponed, and that was that there were many existing contracts for the sale of coal extending over long periods. Those contracts had been made on the faith of the existing law, and no one had any knowledge a month ago that the law was going to be altered so largely. A solvent contractor might become an insolvent one owing to the operation of this Bill. That would be a serious hardship. From the point of view of workmen and employers alike it was important that this relief should be equitably adjusted, and that an unfair and unjust burden should not be placed on the industry in which they were mutually interested. Small collieries were often worked by half a dozen men who had been practical miners. When they found themselves face to face with a new state of things they would federate with other small employers or settle the rate of insurance they could afford to pay. Before this Bill came into operation they should have time to make satisfactory arrangements. He had suggested that the operation of the Bill should be postponed for 12 months, but he would not object to a longer period. He had received a petition from the glass industry at St. Helen's stating that if the Bill passed in its present shape it would inflict serious injury on that trade, and possibly lead to the closing of more glassworks.

MR. W. E. M. TOMLINSON (Preston) said there could be no doubt that if the Bill came into operation too soon it would cause great difficulty, loss, and, perhaps, in some cases ruin. The opinion was widely held that some system of insurance was absolutely necessary for the safe and proper working of the Bill. If the insurance companies saw a difficulty in ascertaining what their actual risk would be they would put their premiums at such a rate as to satisfy what they thought the maximum would be. It was desirable in the interests of all engaged in this important industry that the changes involved in the Bill should be brought about without friction and the mischiefs that must necessarily arise if it came into operation too soon.

*MR. EMERSON BAINBRIDGE (Lincolnshire, Gainsborough) hoped the Government would not consider it unreasonable to concede the 12 months suggested. The Bill would impose a serious burden on the coal trade, and the margin of profit was already very small to work upon. He was able to say with authority that the majority of the coal mines of this country were at present owing money to their bankers, and if these bankers imposed restrictions, that alone would have an important prejudicial effect on the finances of the collieries. There was no crying need for the Bill. The Government had made a present of the Bill, and the working classes would be glad to accept it. In six months he believed most of the insurances could be arranged. But when it came to making contracts for millions of tons of coal which ran to June and December next year, the burden imposed by the Bill would work a great injustice. Employer, workman, or consumer would have ultimately to bear the burden. But there was no need to impose it hurriedly, and he trusted the 12 months asked for would be conceded as a fair and reasonable demand.

*SIR A. HICKMAN said that if the Government desired to encourage a friendly arrangement between workmen and employers, it was clear that it would be impossible in the short period prescribed for the Registrar of Friendly Societies to examine the great number of schemes laid before him. He therefore hoped the Government would consent to a reasonable and moderate extension of time.

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY said that naturally the Government were desirous of considering how the Bill might be brought into operation with the least possible friction, and with reference to the duration of contracts, and arrangements which might have to be made as to insurance, and arrangements which might be necessary on the part of friendly societies, some longer time might be necessary. His hon. Friend the Member for St. Helens would not expect the Government to go so far as to postpone the operation of the Act for 12 months. The Government had looked at all sides of the question, and they thought they might fairly consider the Amendment of the hon. Member for Stirlingshire to bring the Bill into operation on March 31, 1898, which would be giving another three months. This should go some way towards meeting the objections urged against bringing the Bill into immediate operation. If the Committee were agreeable the Government would consent to the date he had mentioned.

MR. SETON-KARR thanked the right hon. Gentleman for the concession which he had made. At the same time he could not help thinking that a delay of only three months would not be enough, and that the minimum extension ought to be six months.

SIR ROBERT REID (Inverness Burghs) hoped that the Home Secretary would remember that a good many Members on the Opposition side of the House and probably on the other side also did not take part in these discussions, because they did not want to hinder the progress of the Bill. Many of those Members regretted, he was sure, the concession which the right hon. Member had made.

MR. BROADHURST thought the concession made by the Government was unprecedented. He did not remember any occasion when the operation of a Bill had been postponed for so long a period as was proposed. The Government had made a very considerable concession to the other side, but they had not accepted, as far as he could remember, any equivalent Amendment on the side of the men. He trusted that the Government would not prove amenable to any further pressure exercised by the opponents of the Bill. When, in his innocence, he ventured to suggest, a short time ago, that with a view to making the Bill absolutely perfect, they might well devote a little more time to its consideration, he was charged, most unfairly, with wishing to delay the Measure. But now the Government themselves accepted an Amendment which would cause considerable delay. He trusted that they would have no more concessions of this kind. If the Government acted in this way, the Opposition might have to reconsider their attitude towards the Measure.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN regretted that the hon. Member should have thought it right to speak in a minatory tone. The hon. Member declared that no concessions had been made by the Government in favour of the workmen. [MR. BROADHURST: "I said equivalent concession!"] That did not alter the case. As a matter of fact, many considerable alterations had been made to meet the views of hon. Members opposite. In fact, a day or two ago the Government were very sharply criticised for having given way so much to the Opposition. He deprecated such criticisms, however, either from the one side or the other. The Government regarded all Amendments according to their merits, and did not consider that they were dealing with opposed interests. They hoped that the interests of workmen and of employers were identical. Nothing would induce them to agree to any great delay before the Bill should come into operation, but they were of opinion that a fair case had been made out for a short delay so that employers might have a better opportunity of making their arrangements. The Bill certainly did involve great change, and he attached high importance to the arrangements which he hoped would be made between employers and employed. He meant amicable arrangements within the Bill, and he thought it was reasonable that time should be given to those concerned to make their plans.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON thought the Members on his side of the House would be prepared to support the Government after the speech of the right hon. Member. [*Some cries of* "No!"] A short delay was expedient in order that arrangements might be perfected in regard to insurance, contracts, and substituted schemes.

MR. J. WILSON (Falkirk Burghs) did not think that a delay of three months would be long enough. He would have preferred the period mentioned in the Amendment of the hon. Member for St. Helens. He had gone into the Lobby against the Government on more than one division since this Bill had been in Committee, but on the present occasion he should support them.

*MR. J. WILSON (Durham, Mid.), viewing the matter impartially, approved the proposed extension of time, because he believed that the peaceful operation of the Measure would be thereby facilitated. In the proposed interval Committees could be formed and friendly arrangements made between employers and workmen.

MR. J. G. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty) said he did not believe that the colliery owners would be ruined. There appeared to be very much consideration for the employers of labour in that House, but what about the workmen? These contracts were among the ordinary risks of trade, and colliery owners must take their chance with other employers. He understood that colliery owners looked for very handsome profits. [*Cries of* "Oh!"] He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would not go back on the concession which he had offered.

*MR. BAINBRIDGE pointed out that the coal contracts for the City of London and all the railway contracts were made from June to June, and had already been made up to June 1898. He thought it was a very small concession to ask the Government, instead of fixing March 31, to fix a time which corresponded with the time for which the contracts were made. He did not agree with the hon. Member for the Falkirk Division. He thought they were justified in pressing the Government for this further extension. He wished to say that he was not now an opponent of the Bill; he had been, but now that the Bill had passed the Second Reading he and his Friends wanted to remove some of its evils, and to defer the incidence of such evils.

MR. SETON-KARR said in order to make his position clear he wished to say that he had been opposed all along to the incidence of the compensation, but he had always been in favour of the principle of universal compensation. To some extent, he thought, they had managed to make the Bill a better Measure.

MR. BROADHURST was understood to say that he had only quoted the Home Secretary.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS: Does the hon. Member press his Amendment?

MR. SETON-KARR said he understood the Government would give them an extension of three months. On that understanding he would ask leave to withdraw his Amendment.

*SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY said that if the Committee allowed the Amendment to be withdrawn the Government would be prepared to support an Amendment of his hon. Friend the Member for Stirlingshire for the extension of the time to the 31st of March.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. J. McKILLOP (Stirlingshire) moved to omit the words "first day of January," and to insert the words "thirty-first day of March."

Amendment agreed to.

MR. WOLFF: On behalf of his hon. Friend the Member for Kilmarnock Burghs (Colonel DENNY), moved to insert at the end of the clause, the words

"and shall continue in force until the thirty-first day of December, one thousand nine hundred and two, provided that any cases remaining unsettled at that date shall continue as if this Act had not expired."

He did so on the ground that the Bill was admittedly an experimental Measure. At the end of five years they would have ascertained the faults of the Act, and would be able to bring in an amended Act.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL said the Government could not accept the Amendment, as they did not think it was desirable that the Bill should be of a temporary nature. ["Hear, hear!"] It was quite obvious from the discussions which had taken place that in all probability amending Acts, and possibly extending Acts, would be brought in, and there would then be ample opportunity for discussing the working of the Measure.

Amendment negatived.

Clause, as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill.

On the return of the CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS, after the usual interval,

MR. HALDANE (Haddington) moved, at the end of Clause 2, to insert the following new clause:—

SUB-CONTRACTING.

(3.) "Where any person in the execution of any work within the scope of his trade or business and for the purpose of executing such work is in occupation of or has control over the place or premises in or upon which such work is to be done, he shall be liable to any workman engaged in the execution of the work therein or thereupon for the amount of any claim which such workman may have under this Act, or in respect of personal negligence or wilful act independently of this Act, against any sub-contractor. Provided that any person liable under this section shall be entitled to indemnity against any other person who would have been liable independently of this section."

This question of sub-contracting, he said, was one of great importance and, perhaps, of more interest to the working classes than any other point in the Bill. By the rules of jurisprudence in this country no man could sue upon a contract who had not been what was called party to that contract. Therefore, if a workman was not in the employment of a master he could not sue the master for injury in his employment, and that would be the rule under this Bill were it not for some such clause as the one he had proposed. This rule had worked out in practice so as to inflict very grievous hardship upon many workpeople who had been injured. He would take two illustrations for the purpose, first, of showing what the clause aimed at doing; and, secondly, for the purpose of showing what class of parties it aimed at bringing within its limits. Take, for instance, the case of a man who had got a mine and who wished to get a certain amount of coal out of it. Headings were driven and a shaft was sunk. It was not convenient for him to find the miners, and so he went to the people who were in some parts of England known as "buttymen." These "buttymen" said they would get the coal the owner wanted, that they would find the miners and would be responsible to them. The "buttyman" employed the miners under the conditions that the whole work was being done under the control of the mine owner, that it was directed by his mine manager, that every bit of it was supervised by the agent of the owner, and that the miners were employed by the "buttyman," although they were only technically employed by him and were really under the control and direction, and subject to the orders of the mine owner or his managers. Under those conditions it was a mere technicality to say that the men were not employed by the mine owner. They were employed by him—that was to say they were controlled and directed by him, and they got their wages out of what belonged to him. Under these circumstances it had always been a great grievance on the part of the workpeople that they had not been able to recover against the mine owner compensation for their injuries, because they found that the sub-contractor was a person of no substance, and so they were left without a remedy for the wrong they had suffered. In that case there had been a growing demand for an alteration of the law, such as was proposed in that clause, which, notwithstanding the technicality that the mine owner had not directly employed them, should make him liable. The clause, therefore, proposed to make liable the mine owner or other employer who was getting work carried out which was within the scope of his trade or business by other people. Then it proposed that if this sub-contractor caused injuries to the workmen the mine owner or employer should have a remedy over against the sub-contractor for what he, the head employer, had had to pay. That seemed just and fair, and it would tend to make the head employer of labour careful as to the kind of sub-contractor he employed, and to see that he was such a man as was likely to do fairly by his workpeople. There were a large number of cases which the clause carefully excluded. Take the case of a man who was in the occupation of land—say a colliery—and who wished some building put up on it, say a colliery shed. Instead of building it himself he went to a builder and employed him to put it up. This could not be said to be "within the scope of his trade or business," and, if an accident happened, this was not a case that would come within the clause. He thought, as drawn, the clause would meet a great grievance which had been felt all over the industrial parts of the country for a long time, and as to which he thought the time had arrived when they should seek an alteration without looking too closely as to whether they were departing from a mere technical rule of law.

MR. C. A. CRIPPS (Gloucester, Stroud) said that with a great many of the propositions stated by the hon. and learned Gentleman opposite he found no exception at all. This clause undoubtedly was a very important one, and he was not quite sure whether the limitations the hon. and learned Gentleman had suggested were really sufficient. There were one or two points to which he should like to direct his attention and that of the Attorney General so far as sub-contracting was concerned. Suppose the work of the sub-contractor was in connection with the general scope of the work of the head employer. From that point of view, he thought the workman should have a remedy in a case of that kind, but he thought it was extremely important that it should be strictly limited. Suppose an employer brought a sub-contractor on to his premises, say a factory, for the purpose possibly of repairing the premises, and that in the course of the work the workman suffered from some injury. He did not understand the hon. and learned Gentleman would suggest that in such a case the factory owner should be liable.

MR. HALDANE pointed out that the words of the clause were "within the scope of his trade or business."

MR. CRIPPS said that, if it were limited in that way, for his part he thought it was a proper Amendment, and ought to be introduced, but that any extension of it beyond that limitation ought, on the other hand, to be rigorously excluded. There was another point on this clause which he could not pass by, although he thought it had to do with the general scope of the Bill. He understood the hon. and learned Gentleman had made certain Amendments in the words of the Amendment so that it should only apply to the "personal negligence" or "wilful act" of the employer. He wanted to protest against these words being introduced. If the first clause was not to be altered on Report, of course the words would have to stand, but he had always protested against the introduction of these words into the first clause.

MR. HALDANE: I have protested as stoutly as my hon. and learned Friend, and I quite agree with him.

MR. CRIPPS said he only wished to safeguard himself as regarded the introduction of the words in this Amendment. He thought they ought not to be introduced, and of course they must be subject to the general form which the Bill took on the Report stage.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL agreed with his hon. and learned Friend the Member for Stroud, and if on Report the first clause should be altered it would be absolutely necessary to alter the present Amendment in the same sense, but as long as the decision of the Committee stood they must adopt here the words "personal negligence" and "wilful act." He would be responsible, so far as he could, for making the Bill consistent when they got its ultimate shape finally agreed upon. He came now to his criticism of this Amendment. He agreed with his hon. Friend the Member for Stroud that it was necessary to have some limit; and he thought that limit was supplied by the words of the Clause "within the scope of his trade or business." There was originally no sub-contracting clause in the Employers' Liability Bill of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for East Fife, and after a long discussion in the Grand Committee, words substantially the same as the Clause now before the Committee were added to that Bill. When the Government came to consider this most difficult question they came to the conclusion that they should not go far wrong in adopting something similar to the sub-contracting clause of the Bill of 1893. They accordingly accepted the new clause of the hon. Member for Haddingtonshire.

Clause Read a Second time.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL moved to add at the end of the clause the words:—

"All questions arising under this section shall be settled by arbitration in the manner provided by this Act."

The Government considered that one of the great advantages of the Bill was that it would kill litigation. The lawyers in the House had accepted that principle. [*Laughter.*] They had, so to speak, signed their own death-warrant, and had thus shown their disinterestedness and self-denial in the matter. [*Laughter.*]

MR. HALDANE thought the Amendment was an improvement to the clause, which would go far to prevent litigation, and, like Quintus Curtius, he would leap into the gulf with the Attorney General. [*Laughter.*]

Amendment agreed to; Clause, as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill.

SIR R. REID moved the following new clause:—

COMPENSATION TO WORKMEN IN CASE OF BANKRUPTCY OF EMPLOYERS.

"Where any employer becomes liable under this Act to pay damages or compensation to any workman or his representatives in respect of any accident and is entitled to any sum from insurers in respect of such liability, then in the event of the bankruptcy or liquidation of such employer such workman or representative shall have a charge upon the sum aforesaid for the payment of the money so due to him."

According to the law as it stood the general creditors of an employer in the event of his bankruptcy or liquidation would receive the benefit of any sum owing to him by an insurance company in respect of an accident; and the object of the Amendment was to secure that the injured workman on whose behalf the insurance was made should get the benefit of the insurance.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL said the Government had already expressed sympathy with the principle of the clause, and they consequently had no objection to its being added to the Bill. It might, however, to a certain extent, depend whether the Government could adopt the clause as it stood, upon what might be the ultimate decision of the House in regard to the schedule of the Bill. There were provisions in the schedule in regard to periodical payments and payments in a lump sum; and it was quite possible that some words would be introduced into the schedule to enable employers to get rid of the current liability to pay weekly allowances for an indefinite period; and in that event it would be necessary to make some modification in the clause.

MR. C. J. DARLING (Deptford) asked whether it was to be understood that the workman in this case was to have a charge upon the special sum which the employer might be entitled to receive by virtue of the insurance he has effected; and also in addition to that to have an equal claim with the other creditors upon the general assets of the employer.

SIR R. REID said the workman would have a charge on the money owing by the insurance company, but if he had any other claim against the employer he would have to prove his claim like any other creditor.

Clause Read a Second time, and ordered to stand part of the Bill.

*SIR C. DILKE, on behalf of Mr. S. EVANS (Glamorgan, Mid), moved the following new clause:—

PRIORITY IN BANKRUPTCY OR WINDING UP.

"All compensation payable under this Act shall have the like priority in payment in case of bankruptcy or winding up as wages under the Preferential Payments in Bankruptcy Act 1888, or any other Act for the time being regulating the priority of wages in bankruptcy or winding-up."

Sir R Reid,

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL said there was a broad distinction between this clause and the clause which the Committee had just accepted. That clause proposed that the sum of money which an employer might receive under an insurance should not, in the case of his bankruptcy, be considered as one of his general assets and go to the general creditors, but should be applied to the use for which it was intended—the compensation of injured workmen. He had every desire to benefit the workmen, but this clause certainly went a great deal too far, and he did not think the Committee would do well to adopt it.

*MR. J. B. BALFOUR (Clackmannan and Kinross) understood that the preferable claim for wages in bankruptcy was allowed because the work in respect of which the wages were payable had created part of the fund which was divisible among the creditors, and the principle of the Bill was to treat compensation for accidents as part of the cost of production. This being so, payment of damages for loss of life or bodily injury was just as much incidental to the cost of production of the divisible fund as the wages were.

MR. CRIPPS said that this was really a most important point, and he considered that it should be properly adjusted quite as much in the interest of the workmen as of the employer. It was quite evident that the adoption of this clause would practically destroy credit. What banker would give credit to an employer if, owing to an accident, a claim for possibly very many thousands might take preference of anything the banker had advanced for the purpose of carrying on the business? No clause could be more calculated than this to cripple industry. It was well to remember that the liability as to wages was an ascertained liability, but in this case there was an unascertained liability. Could it really be suggested that a large unascertained liability of this kind could suddenly be placed in preference to all other creditors? In that event no one would be more injured than the working classes themselves.

MR. CHARLES FENWICK (Northumberland, Wansbeck) remarked that the Colonial Secretary had always argued that compensation should be made a charge upon trade, and therefore a charge upon production. The Bill did not compel employers to insure, in which event the

Attorney General would surely admit that workmen were entitled to some protection whereby any claim of theirs to compensation should have priority over the claims of other creditors who did not stand in the same relation to the employer as they did.

MR. JAMES KENYON (Bury) hoped the Attorney General would reconsider his decision upon this question—["hear, hear!"]—as this Amendment proceeded on the exact lines of the Preferential Payments in Bankruptcy Bill—namely, that no one ought to be considered before the man who had met with an accident in the course of his employment.

MR. J. L. WALTON said it had been contended that they were proposing to give a preference to unascertained liability. It was not clear from the wording of the Amendment whether it extended to compensation which had not been ascertained. In so far as it had been ascertained the objection entirely failed. With regard to compensation which had not been ascertained one would have thought there would be no difficulty in estimating sufficiently what the amount would be. He trusted his hon. and learned Friend the Attorney General would reconsider the attitude he had assumed towards the Amendment.

MR. F. G. BANBURY (Camberwell, Peckham) felt that, in addition to putting an extra burden on the employer, the adoption of the clause would result in preventing the employer from borrowing money at as reasonable a rate of interest as he did at present.

MR. BUXTON contended that this was really a question of future wages. But the great point of the Amendment was this—that unless some such provision were inserted the workman's compensation, in case of his employer's bankruptcy, would depend entirely on the employer's caprice in insuring or not insuring. He should vote for the Amendment because it would encourage employers to insure.

*SIR A. HICKMAN said that he was surprised to hear hon. Gentlemen opposite advocating something which would compel employers to insure. He thought that the object of the Labour Representatives was to prevent accidents rather than to compensate workmen. [*Cries of* "No!"]

MR. BROADHURST said that there was no difference in principle between this Amendment and the Bill for the preferential payment of wages which was now awaiting the Royal Assent. What did the Attorney General call the money which was to be paid to the men injured by accident?

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: Compensation.

MR. BROADHURST said that it was remuneration—what, in the Civil Service was called "deferred pay."

MR. SYDNEY GEDGE (Walsall) said that all were anxious to do justice to the working man, but they must not be unjust to others. Wages were quite different from compensation claims. Priority was given to wages as a claim against an estate, because the wage-earner, unlike most other creditors, was obliged to give credit to his employer. By not giving priority to claims for compensation some inducement was offered to the working man to join in providing for his insurance.

SIR ROBERT REID said that he wished to press on the Committee the extreme importance of this Amendment. By reason of the employer alone being made liable for the compensation the chance of the workman getting paid was somewhat precarious. That was one of the weak points in the Bill; and this Amendment was levelled against it. Supposing a colliery owner had a great accident, followed by liabilities for compensation of £40,000 or £50,000. If he were uninsured and became bankrupt, those interested in the compensation claims would have nothing but the chance of a dividend in common with other creditors. Yet these people were peculiarly entitled to consideration. They had more claim to preference than many of the interests named in the Bankruptcy Act of 1883. It was said that the banker would charge more for advances if this Amendment were carried. Everybody knew that in every shipment of produce from abroad to this country or from this country abroad the banker who made an advance upon it required to see not only the bill of lading, but the policy of insurance, and was satisfied if the policy was good. It was incredible that the banker would charge more in this case. He would do this—he would insist, before giving accommodation to a particular firm, that there should be an insurance that would cover him against any great supervening risk, such as that of an accident on a large scale which might make his security comparatively valueless. If this preferential clause were passed, the banker would act practically as a vigilance agent to see that there was an insurance against the liability created by the Bill; and that was the point made by the hon. Member for Leeds—viz., that the clause would immensely increase the prospect of the insurance being effected. He did not pretend to be more particularly informed on business than anybody else. But he was dealing with insurance and commercial matters of all kinds every day, and he knew that every banker who made advances always expected to have an insurance policy and charged nothing extra for it. If hon. Gentlemen did not agree, they must agree to differ. The effect would be that instead of this claim coming as a preferential claim against general assets, there would be a special fund created by the insurance, against which, under the Amendment already passed, there would be a claim by way of security. He had endeavoured to put this to the Home Secretary and hon. Gentlemen opposite. But after all, this was a matter on which there could be no difference as between employers and workmen—it could only be a question of what was expedient and fair. He supposed they would divide—["hear, hear!"]—and he certainly should divide in favour of the Amendment. ["Hear, hear!"] Although the Home Secretary was master of majorities, he hoped that he would not dismiss this subject from his mind, but would give it a fair amount of consideration, and would see whether it was not really and truly in the interest of the employers as well as in the interest of the workmen to insert this preferential clause. ["Hear, hear!"]

Mr. PARKER SMITH (Lanarkshire, Partick) sincerely hoped the Government would not accept the Amendment. Hon. Members who had spoken in support of it had not faced the real difficulty of the question. The real difficulty seemed to him to come out in regard to a big colliery accident as it did in nothing else. It was of small importance in regard to other trades in which there was no possibility of an accident on a large scale. Hon. Members on both sides of the House who had spoken on behalf of the Amendment had got hold of a false analogy when they put this claim to compensation on the same ground as wages. The position of wages was explained very clearly by an hon. Member below the Gangway. Wages were simply a payment for work already done; and it must be borne in mind that under the Preferential Act of 1888 there was a definite limit set to the amount for which preference could be claimed. A man could not claim preference for wages for more than two months, or a sum not exceeding £20. But here there was a possible enormous claim of £50,000, £60,000, or £100,000, which might come suddenly. What was more, it was an absolutely new right. What was there that could be held sacrosanct about such a right as that? He should like the men, of course, to get their money if they could. But why were they, on grounds of general justice to be put in front of every other creditor in the country? Take the men who had been supplying timber and other materials to the colliery. Take the widow and the orphan who held shares in the colliery. Why should they not have their claims too? Why should this new right be put absolutely in front of all? They were all agreed as to giving the workmen compensation for accidents; and of course they desired that everybody should be solvent and be able to meet all claims on them. But he failed to see the argument that this right, involving a fresh liability, it might be to the extent of £50,000 or £60,000, should come before everything else. He did feel most strongly that it would be a most serious interference with the ordinary course of the business of collieries. The hon. Member for Gainsborough said earlier in the evening that according to his knowledge the great majority of the collieries of Great Britain were in debt to their bankers. His own knowledge, as far as it went, was to the same effect. Speaking as one who knew something of what went on upon both sides in the process of a colliery borrowing money from a bank, he was sure that any fresh liability of this kind would have the very strongest effect in deterring a bank from lending money to a colliery. They knew how cautious bankers were, necessarily and naturally, and how much any small, any reasonable obstacle weighed with them. They wished to have their money advanced on complete security always. The right hon. Gentleman spoke of ordinary advances on bills of lading and property of that kind. Of course it was right and reasonable to insure in such cases. But here was a liability not merely to the extent of the thing they were advancing the money upon, but an entirely indefinable liability—it might be for an amount ten times the value of what they were asked to advance. A bank, in the ordinary way, often allowed a colliery to go on with an overdraft of £10,000 or £15,000, which might last for months or years. What would happen if there was to be a sudden claim for a heavy sum? There was always the possibility of an explosion, and if there was to be a sudden claim for £50,000 or £100,000 coming in front of every other claim on a colliery—the right hon. Gentleman shook his head; but he was of opinion that the cost of the insurance a bank would insist on being paid would be so heavy that it would be a most serious thing for all colliery proprietors. Therefore, he held that this liability was in a wholly different position than that for wages, and he hoped the Government would not accept the Amendment.

MR. F. CAWLEY (Lancashire, S.E., Prestwich) could not possibly understand why the Government objected to this Amendment. It was calculated to protect the workmen from loss who wanted protection most. It was a well known fact that impecunious employers were the very persons who neglected the ordinary precautions against accidents, and also of insurance, or indeed any other expense that could be immediately done without. It would be quite possible to imagine a colliery proprietor who was in a semi-bankrupt condition neglecting to insure his men and going into bankruptcy directly a large claim for compensation was made on account of an explosion or serious accident. The result would be that the workmen who were injured, or the representatives of those who had perished would come in with the general body of creditors and perhaps get only 2s. 6d. in the pound. If this Amendment passed bankers before granting an overdraft to an employer would demand to see his insurance policies both for fire and under this Bill. And this, as the hon. and learned Member said, would be a very great safety to workpeople.

*SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY did not rise to argue this question any further, but to appeal to the Committee whether they were not prepared to come to a decision on the question, which had been adequately discussed on both sides. So far as the Government were concerned the Attorney General had sufficiently expressed their views. They were not prepared to accept the Amendment now before the House. He hoped, therefore, the House would be prepared to come to a decision.

MR. W. ABRAHAM (Glamorgan, Rhondda) said it seemed to him that some Gentlemen were trying to get an easement out of the liability. He should like to press on the Government to fulfil their promises and to fulfil the hopes they had raised in regard to working men and the working classes in regard to this Measure. It would be no use unless they carried it out to its logical conclusion, and he hoped the Government would accept the Amendment.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES asked was it right that the workman should have a preferential claim over all others? [*Cries of* "Yes!"] Over the butcher and the baker? [AN HON. MEMBER: "It is promised!"] He did not think that it was promised. It would drive the employer into bankruptcy or into a joint stock company, the next thing to it. There was a certain amount of ungenerosity in the attitude taken up. They had given the workman a claim under this Bill, and they were giving him a claim on the first part of all that was left.

*MR. J. WILSON (Durham, Mid) observed that the hon. Member for Lynn Regis had lost sight of one of the great blemishes in the Bill when he said that a man who caused the accident might have a claim on a bankrupt estate. He ought to know that a clause had been inserted in the Bill by which no man who wilfully misconducted himself had any claim whatever to compensation.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: That refers to wilfully.

*MR. J. WILSON (Durham, Mid): If he wilfully misconducts himself that implies negligence.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: No, no.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: Not contributory negligence.

*MR. J. WILSON (Durham, Mid) contended that that implied any species of misconduct of which a man might be guilty, and in respect of which he would lose his claim for compensation, and consequently any claim upon a bankrupt estate. There was nothing in this Amendment asking that the Government should guarantee the solvency of any man, but all that was asked was that a man, after he had been injured, should have a full claim to the right which the Government established in the Bill. All through the discussions on this Bill the Government had ruthlessly disregarded the liability that was thrown upon the employer, but here, in a most intrinsic point of the Bill, when it was sought to guard the workmen against any loss after being injured, the Government set themselves to care for the liability of the employer. Again, the Government had asserted by this Bill that the injured workman had the first lien upon the industry in which he was engaged so long as he was incapacitated, and that if he was killed his widow or those dependent upon him had a right to be provided for with a sum ranging from £150 to £300. By the bankruptcy of an employer the widow and orphans, unless this Amendment were carried, might be deprived entirely of their means of subsistence. It had been said that the workman stood on the same footing as the ordinary creditor. Hon. Members would see that that was a mistake, for while a creditor had some means of knowing, in part, at any rate, whether an employer of labour was financially sound or bordering on insolvency, the workman had no opportunity whatever of acquiring such knowledge; and yet if he was injured, and the employer suddenly became bankrupt, his means of support were cut off, and he was left in beggary. The Government, having asserted that the workman, as a result of injury, had a right to have some provision made for him, ought to guarantee that provision so far as they possibly could. It had been said that an injured workman did not stand so high in the scale as the wage-earning workman. In his opinion, he stood far higher. A man who was hale and hearty, and who was deprived of his wages by the bankruptcy of his employer, might go and get employment to-morrow elsewhere, but the man who was shorn of the compensation the Bill gave him, being incapacitated, perhaps permanently, had nothing but beggary before him as the result of the insolvency of his employer. If it was right for the ordinary workman to have a preferential claim upon the estate of his late employer—as it undoubtedly was—on that employer becoming insolvent, there was a stronger right on the part of the man who was injured to have a preferential claim on the estate, and to obtain the compensation the Bill gave him. If the Bill had been attractive in the eyes of the working classes up to the present, the refusal of this Amendment would minimise and lessen that attraction. As far as he was concerned, he had said more than once that he was not enamoured of this Bill, and if the Government wished the working classes to continue to look upon the Measure as a boon and a benefit they ought to reconsider their position, and accept this Amendment.

MR. BOUSFIELD said they all acknowledged the grievance that was entailed, but he would point out that when a concern was in bankruptcy all the creditors were partners in misfortune, and somebody had to bear the loss. When it came to a question of wages, a limited amount paid in respect of wages already earned was perfectly fair, but when it was a case of payment for future wages, which was being asked for on behalf of the workmen, instead of getting it out of the pocket of the employer, the workmen would get it out of the pockets of their fellow creditors, who were in equal misfortune with themselves. He would mention just one more point. Hon. Members who had spoken on behalf of the workmen had said that they regarded this as one of the intrinsic points of the Bill; but did they ever put this point forward in connection with the old employers' liability law? Two or three years ago hon. Gentlemen were perfectly contented to leave that as it stood, and now they sought to introduce a new principle. They desired to push the matter further. Unless hon. Gentlemen wished to wreck the Bill, they ought on this point to stop short.

*MR. CARVELL WILLIAMS (Notts, Mansfield) said the hon. Member for

Leicester described compensation as the deferred payment of wages. He thought the more accurate description would be substituted payment, and that was his answer to the Attorney General. So long as a man was in health he received weekly wages, and when he became incapacitated he received wages in another form, that was, in the form of compensation; and if it was admitted that wages had a preferential claim, it seemed to him that, logically, the principle should be applicable to the man who was paid by way of compensation. As to the general objection that had been raised, namely, that the adoption of this principle would lead to financial disaster, if valid, held good against the entire Measure. He, however, did not believe the manufacturers of this country would be injured if the relations of employer and employed were placed on an equitable basis.

MR. J. G. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty) said that bankers were quite competent to look after their own interests. They seldom made a loss in a commercial transaction. In the interest of the sick man, the widows and the orphans, this Amendment ought to be adopted. They were entitled to the first consideration of the House, seeing that they had no means of ascertaining whether an employer was insured or not. He agreed that compensation ought to be considered as having a preferential claim, and for that reason he should vote in favour of the Amendment.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 80; Noes, 162.—(Division List, No. 232.)

MR. G. WHITELEY (Stockport) moved the following new clause, to which he said there was no opposition:—

"Provided that where an employer who is the owner or occupier of any premises has engaged or contracted with any other person to execute any work, act, or thing in or upon such premises not within the scope of the trade or business of such employer, and such other person employs or directs and controls the workmen engaged in such work, act, or thing, then, in the event of any of such workmen being injured whilst so engaged, such other person shall be deemed to be the employer of such workmen for the purposes of this Act, and not the owner or occupier of the premises."

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL intimated that the Government agreed to accept the clause.

Clause Read a Second time.

Question put, "That the Clause stand part of the Bill."

MR. REGINALD MCKENNA (Monmouth, N.) argued that either this clause or that moved by the hon. and learned Member for Haddington was unnecessary.

MR. G. WHITELEY explained that his clause was intended to meet cases like the following:—A factory had to be limewashed every year, and a master limewasher was employed who brought in his own men, scaffolding poles, etc., and managed the whole job himself. It would be manifestly wrong in such a case to hold the owner or occupier of the premises liable for any accident to the contractor's men.

SIR ROBERT REID feared that this clause might lead to misunderstanding, and suggested that the Attorney General should give it his attention before the Report stage, so that if the clause should be found to be unnecessary it might be deleted.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL admitted that it would be reasonable to reconsider this clause in connection with that which had been carried by the hon. Member for Haddington. If he should find, on looking into the question further that this clause was likely to lead to ambiguity, or was unnecessary, as the hon. Member for North Monmouth suggested, the matter could be set right at the Report stage.

Clause ordered to stand part of the Bill.

MR. A. H. DYKE ACLAND (York, W.R., Rotherham) said that the Bill did not provide for any record either of accidents or of the compensation paid in respect of them. He proposed, in order to supply this omission, to move—"That there shall be laid before Parliament annually a Return showing the particulars of all accidents in respect of which compensation has been paid, and the amount of compensation paid under this Act or under schemes certified by the

Registrar of Friendly Societies." Right hon. Gentlemen opposite had repeated several times that experience must be gained of the working of the Measure before it could be extended to trades not at present included, and in order that that experience might be recorded it was necessary to provide suitable machinery. It might, he admitted, be difficult to determine the best way of obtaining the information which it was desirable they should have. That was a point to which he hoped the Home Secretary would devote his attention. The statistics now available in regard to fatal accidents were, no doubt, fairly correct, but the same could not be said of the statistics of non-fatal accidents, which were often almost worthless. So far as existing Acts were concerned, he did not think any existing statistics were likely to help them. He did not know what the Home Secretary proposed to do with reference to a clause which would be proposed by his hon. and learned Friend the Member for Dumfries Burghs in regard to the notification of the amount of compensation. He was inclined to think that some method of registering both the accidents and the compensation given might be a better method of obtaining statistics than any attempt to alter or modify the present arrangement for the notification of accidents. However that might be, if they were to obtain experience of the working of this Bill, some provision for the laying before Parliament of a report by some public office was certainly essential, especially in view of any future legislation on the subject.

Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY said he was in entire agreement with the right hon. Gentleman that for the future success, not only of this Bill, but of any subsequent legislation, it was extremely desirable that Parliament should have a proper record, and he had already been considering how to introduce into this Bill some provision for a compulsory return, so that they might be informed of what took place under the Act. He was not at present prepared to say what shape such a provision should take, and he was not, therefore, prepared to accept the clause which the right hon. Gentleman had sketched out; but he could assure him that the Government agreed that they should endeavour to procure proper information for Parliament of what took place under the Act.

Mr. C. B. RENSHAW (Renfrew, W.) said if the Home Secretary was going to accept this Amendment at a subsequent stage he would point out that there was no particular reason why a return of this kind should be placed before the House. He understood that the whole liability would devolve on the employers, and if they were called upon to make additional returns with regard to this Bill he must really protest against it, as it would be laying an additional burden on the employers of labour which he thought was unnecessary.

Mr. TOMLINSON said it was obvious that the return, if it were to be of any use, must go much more into detail than did many of the existing returns. Something had been said as to foreign countries, and perhaps a knowledge of the exact nature of the returns made in Germany might give some guidance. He thought they ought to protest against the industries of the country being burdened with the expense of elaborate returns.

Sir JOSEPH PEASE (Durham, Barnard Castle) pointed out the great variety of the existing returns, which were somewhat confusing in their character. The returns of shipping, mines, and railways were at present all drawn out on different lines. There was also a want of instruction to those who made the returns, and it was notorious that the railway returns were made up on various bases by various companies.

Mr. STUART-WORTLEY (Sheffield, Hallam) believed that the Home Office had taken steps to introduce some conformity in the various returns. The Amendment of the right hon. Gentleman, however, omitted to say by whom the Return should be made. As this information would be returned for the public advantage, it ought not to be exacted from employers at private cost.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

SCHEDULES.—FIRST SCHEDULE.

Scale and conditions of compensation.—
Scale.

(1.) The amount of compensation under this Act shall be—

(*a*) where death results from the injury—

(i.) if the workman leaves dependants, a sum equal to his earnings during the *three* years next preceding the injury, or the sum of *one hundred and fifty pounds*, whichever of those sums is the larger, but not exceeding in any case *three hundred pounds*, provided that the amount of any weekly payments made under this Act shall be deducted from such sum; and

(ii.) if he leaves no dependants, the medical attendance and burial, not exceeding *ten pounds*.

(*b*) in case of incapacity for work, a weekly payment during the incapacity after the second week not exceeding *fifty* per cent. of his weekly earnings at the time of the accident, such weekly payment not to exceed *one pound*.

(2.) The payment shall, in case of death, be made to the legal personal representative of the workman, or, if he has no legal personal representative, to his dependants, or, if he leaves no dependants, to the person to whom the expenses are due.

(3.) The expression "dependants" in this schedule means such members of the workman's family as are entitled to damages in cases under the Fatal Accidents Act 1846; and any question as to who is a dependant, or as to the amount payable to each dependant shall, in default of agreement, be settled by arbitration under this Act.

(4.) If any of the dependants is an infant his share of compensation may be invested for his benefit as directed by the arbitrator.

(5.) Any weekly payment may be reviewed at intervals of not less than *three* months at the request either of the employer or of the workman, and on such review may be ended, diminished, or increased, subject to the maximum above provided, and the amount of payment shall, in default of agreement, be settled by arbitration under this Act.

(6.) A weekly payment shall not be capable of being assigned or charged, and shall not pass to any other person by operation of law.

MR. RENSHAW moved in Section (1), after the words "if the workman," to insert the words "under sixty years of age, and," so as to limit the compensation to be paid to the dependants of a workman who has been killed and who "is under 60 years of age." He believed that there were an enormous number of old hands employed in factories who through failing health or imperfect sight were not so capable of performing their duties so satisfactorily as when younger. It was a matter of constant consideration between a good employer and his manager that nothing should interfere with the continued employment of these men. But when a liability such as was imposed by the Bill was incurred and accidents happened to these old men, the claim in respect of the dependants, who were extremely ill-defined, raised a grave and serious question as to how far the passing of the Bill would affect the employment of these older hands. While making a certain provision for men under 60, the Committee ought to make a smaller compensation in respect of an accident to men over that age. Having regard also to the question of carrying out a scheme of old age pensions, it seemed extremely undesirable to add to the already large number of those who were driven out of employment by reason of increasing years.

MR. WALTER HAZELL (Leicester) hoped the Government would not agree to this Amendment. The Mover of it did not appear to have borne in mind the fact that in the ordinary course of nature an aged man was hardly likely to have any dependants, except, perhaps, a wife—[HON. MEMBERS: "Grandchildren!"]—and the employers would be few and far between who, whether the clause passed or not, would be so chilly in their dealings as to withhold the benefits from the aged widow under such circumstances.

MR. PARKER SMITH pointed out that, under the Bill as it stood, not only the widow, but every son and daughter and every grandson and granddaughter would be a dependant and entitled to a share of the compensation. As a man got old he was less likely to have persons actually dependant upon him in the sense of requiring his earnings, and that seemed an argument for reducing the scale of compensation. Again, as a man got old, his rate of wages came down, and that was another argument for reducing the scale of compensation. If this heavy scale of compensation, which might be fair enough to a man in the prime of life, was to be payable to old men, it would offer a strong additional inducement to employers, instead of finding easier places for the old men, to get rid of them altogether.

MR. TOMLINSON said there was another reason which the hon. Member opposite had not taken into consideration, and that was that, in the case of an accident befalling an old man it might be a long affair, whereas the same kind of accident happening to a young man would be of trifling importance. A comparatively slight accident might take the old man months to get over it, and when at length he came back, he would find his muscles stiff and less fitted for work. [HON. MEMBERS: "This is the case of death!"] Even if the Amendment was limited to death, he still held that there should be a difference in the scale of compensation as between old and young men.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN said he had thought a good deal about this subject, and he should like to have some opinion from the Committee from the point of view of the workman. He thought there was something in the argument that they might be putting a disability, as it were, on the older men. That was one of the most serious things which we had to face in future with regard to our industrial position. Every day firms of any importance were being turned into limited liability companies, and however generous an employer might be, these companies were not always generous. He knew many such companies—extremely well managed, and, on the whole, liberally conducted—in which even now no man above 50 years was employed. If an additional disadvantage were attached to old age, it might tend more and more in the direction of throwing the older men on the world without a chance of employment. That would be a most disastrous thing for the men themselves and generally for society. He should like to know what those who represented the working classes in the House thought on the subject. In its pecuniary aspect the question was not of the slightest consequence, and the Government were quite prepared to stand by their Bill if it were preferred. But, if he were confirmed in his impression that the tendency in adopting a uniform scale would be to prejudice the older workmen, then the Committee might reasonably consider whether a difference could not be made. It was known that the older men were those to whom accidents were more likely to happen, because they were not so skilled nor were their muscles in such good condition.

MR. FENWICK said that those who directly represented labour would not be prepared to accept the statement that the older men were more liable to accident. They were generally more cautious. If the Bill were to differentiate, not only between different classes of men in the same trade, but between old and young men, the Measure would be very unpopular. The whole experience of permanent relief funds and benefit societies showed that there was less liability to accident on the part of the older men.

COLONEL DENNY (Kilmarnock Burghs) said that the Amendment was moved entirely in the interest of labour, and if those who directly represented labour were not prepared to accept the Amendment, his hon. Friend would not press it, but would be content to leave the consequences to those who were advising labour. It frequently happened that old men, unfit for work, were kept on simply because they had grown up with their employers, and fictitious posts were created for them, because if they were discharged they would never earn another day's wages. It was rather hard to offer another inducement to the limited liability companies to get rid of the old men.

*MR. JOHN WILSON (Durham, Mid) said he had a better opinion of the employers of labour than evidently some of those gentlemen had of themselves. He did not think there would be that readiness to discharge old men on the part of the employers which the Mover of the Amendment seemed to anticipate. When the Bill was originally introduced, he was glad to see that there was no distinction drawn in it between old men and young men, but that compensation on the same basis of percentage of wages was to be provided for all alike. If an old man earned less than a young man he would get less compensation. Under the Bill as it stood, whatever a man's age might be, he would get simply a percentage of his wages as compensation in the event of an accident. That appeared to him to be the best plan, and he hoped the Government would adhere to it. There was no necessity whatever to draw a distinction between the young and the old. He might be accounted an old man, but he was sure he could work as hard as some young men. Old age, after all, was only relative, and they could not set up on the basis of age as a distinction between capability and incapacity. He did not believe, as he had already said, that there was any danger of employers treating their old workmen unfairly; but he was prepared to risk that danger rather than that there should be a distinction between young men and old men in regard to the compensation they were to be allowed in case of injury.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN said that this was a matter which entirely concerned labour, and he took it its representatives were unanimous on that point. He imagined his hon. Friend who moved the Amendment did not claim to move it on behalf of the employers, and, therefore, he hoped the hon. Gentleman would withdraw the Amendment.

MR. RENSHAW could not say he moved the Amendment on behalf of the employers, but he felt that the Bill would prejudice the position of many old men in the eyes of employers. He had several old servants in his employ whom he certainly would not like to dismiss, and to whom it would be a great punishment if they were deprived of their employment. He sympathised with the hardships of the employés, and in view of the speeches which had been made by hon. Gentlemen opposite, he would ask leave to withdraw his Amendment.

SIR J. PEASE thought it would be most invidious to make a distinction in an Act of Parliament between old and young men and at the same time be of no practical use at all. [*Cries of* "Agreed!"]

MR. J. WILSON (Falkirk Burghs) expressed the opinion that in the interests of the workmen his hon. Friend was wrong in offering to withdraw the Amendment. There was no doubt one effect of the Bill would be that private firms would be turned into limited liability companies, whose managers, having to show a profit, would select young employés, who were less likely to come to injury that older men. In a coal mine, nine-tenths of the accidents were caused at the face, and young men were able to spring away.

*MR. J. WILSON (Durham, Mid): Old men keep out.

MR. J. WILSON (Falkirk Burghs) said that when he was a young man of 20 he was in such an accident. He sprang aside. Had he not done so he would have had, instead of having a sprained leg, a sprained back, and he would not now have been addressing the Committee. If the representatives of the workmen thought they were acting in the best interests of the workmen, he had nothing more to say.

COLONEL MILWARD (Stratford-upon-Avon) believed that under the Bill as it now stood the older workmen would be more likely to lose their employment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*SIR A. HICKMAN moved in Section (1) to leave out all the words from "leaves" to the end of the Section, and to insert:—

"A widow the sum of 10s. per week during her life and widowhood, and, if he leaves children under the age of 16, the sum of 1s. 6d. per week for each such child until he or she attains that age. If the workman leaves no widow or children, but leaves dependants, the sum of 10s. per week during the life of such dependants, to be divided amongst such dependants, if more than one, in such proportions as the County Court Judge or arbitrator, as provided by the second schedule of this Act shall direct and—"

The object of the Amendment, he said, was to provide that the provision made under the Bill for the widows and orphans should be of a permanent character. Those who had experience of the working classes knew how soon a lump sum could be dissipated. The interest of the community was that there should be a permanent provision which should keep the widow and her children, rather than that she should receive a lump sum, which might very soon be wasted, and that then she should become a charge upon the rates. His proposal might impose an increased burden upon the employer, but, speaking as an employer, he would be quite willing to accept that additional burden, for he should have the satisfaction of knowing that under no circumstances whatever could the widow and children go to the union.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN said he was obliged to ask the Committee not to accept this Amendment. The fact was, the Government had adopted the principle to which his hon. Friend attached importance in regard to certain cases. What had followed? There had come to the Government demands from all quarters of the House—from those who represented the cause of the workpeople and from those who represented employers, that this scheme would be unfair both for workmen and employers if there were no means whatever of commuting it for a lump sum in certain cases. There were on the Paper at the present time 10 or 12 Amendments from different sections of the House, claiming that under certain circumstances, at all events, there should be liberty to commute in the interests of the workpeople quite as much as in the interests of the employer. If that were the case in regard to incapacity, *a fortiori* it would apply to this proposal to make a new prolonged payment in the case of the dependants of the person who had suffered death by accident. Although he agreed with his hon. Friend that this proposal of his would probably be, actuarially, more valuable than the proposal under the Bill, he did not believe it would be so popular with the workpeople themselves. The Government proposed to meet his hon. Friend and those who had Amendments upon the subject, as far as they thought it possible, by allowing discretion to the arbitrators, in all cases of death, to invest the sum which came to the dependants in such manner as they might think desirable. They had provided in the schedule that they might invest it in the case of infants. They proposed to go further and to give that discretion in regard to all dependants. ["Hear, hear!"]

*Sir C. DILKE said he did not know where the 10 or 12 Amendments were to which the right hon. Gentleman alluded, as wishing to alter the weekly payments in the direction of a lump sum. He was disposed to agree with the hon. Member who moved the Amendment. The fact was, that the lump sum had been absolutely rejected by all the people who had written and thought upon the subject before people here began to think of it at all. It had been rejected by the legislatures of all countries which had adopted any legislation of this kind. He could only imagine one reason that might induce them to adopt the lump sum, and that was the difficulty of being certain that they should be able always to provide for the payment of the weekly instalments. The bankruptcy argument always came up on this question, as it cropped up in almost every question they had so far debated on this Bill. But except that one argument, he could imagine none. In the German legislation this matter had been most carefully provided for. In every form it had rejected the lump sum, and in case of death there was an allowance made for the widow and for every child separately. It was very elaborate and careful legislation, and took a long time to carry.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN: Hear, hear!

*Sir C. DILKE: Still, it is not the scientific way of looking at the question to object on that ground, and it confirms the hon. Gentleman who has moved the Amendment. He must say that it was with some alarm he heard the Attorney General indicate, earlier in the evening, that a change would be made in the Bill in the direction of a lump sum. Of course the Committee would have to consider it when they came to it later on; still, he desired to express the alarm he felt, because he was sure that the lump sum would be too often wasted and squandered. ["Oh, oh!"] He spoke with some knowledge of the habits of widows who received compensation upon the deaths of their husbands. He had often, when sitting as chairman of a board of guardians, seen instances of enormous sums being wasted on death. He remembered one case of a widow who came into a very large sum of money, as the result of subscriptions by her husband's friends—an immense sum for the class to which she belonged, and within three months, although she was a perfectly respectable woman, she came to the Board of Guardians for relief, having wasted the whole sum in expenditure in her husband's honour in connection with the funeral and mourning. He was sure there would be great opposition to any commutation to a payment in a lump sum. If the Government could see their way to some method of securing permanence for the weekly payments, that would be a very different mode of relief; but he was quite sure that the substitution of a lump sum for weekly payments was not the right direction in which to advance, and he was, therefore, disposed to support the Amendment.

Mr. CRIPPS said that he rose to a point of order. He understood that the Chairman was going to put the word "dependants" as part of the clause. If so, would that not have the effect of excluding his own Amendment, next on the Paper, which was to leave out "dependants" and insert—

> "any wife, husband, parent, or child who has been wholly or in part dependant upon the earnings of the workman at the time of or immediately prior to his death (hereinafter referred to as 'dependants')"?

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS: There is no other form in which the question can possibly be put, and it cannot be helped if the hon. Member is excluded. He can raise the question lower down upon the schedule.

MR. CRIPPS asked upon the point of order whether, under the circumstances, he might not on this occasion speak to his own Amendment? [*Laughter.*] The point was this. Although possibly his Amendment might come later on, yet he thought the discussion of his Amendment at this stage had a very material bearing on the whole of the rest of the schedule, and it might shorten the discussion as to whether this principle was to be accepted or not.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS said the hon. Member's Amendment could not be discussed at this stage.

MR. CRIPPS: But surely my Amendment would be in order upon the Motion that the word "dependants" stand part of the clause. My Motion is entirely relevant, because if it is carried, the word "dependants" would not stand.

MR. PARKER SMITH suggested that the hon. Member might bring his Amendment in order by inserting after "dependants", the word "being," making the clause read, "dependants, being any wife, husband," etc.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS: It is impossible to discuss another Amendment which really does not raise the same point as that raised by the Amendment now before the Committee. The hon. Member will have an opportunity lower down.

SIR FRANCIS EVANS considered the lump sum payment to be the only practical and business-like suggestion. Fix a lump sum, and it could be insured, but if they went mixing up weekly payments, they were immediately brought face to face with actuarial considerations, which were extremely difficult.

And, it being Midnight, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress; to sit again To-morrow.

RATING (PLACES OF WORSHIP AND SCHOOLS) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Friday 25th June.

WAREHOUSEMEN'S CERTIFICATES BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Tuesday 6th July.

PARLIAMENTARY ELECTORS (MARINERS' VOTES) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Tuesday 6th July.

APPOINTMENT OF HIGH SHERIFFS (IRELAND) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Thursday 24th June.

MERCHANT SHIPPING ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Tuesday 29th June.

ACCOUNTANTS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Order for Second Reading Read, and discharged; Bill withdrawn.

ACCOUNTANTS BILL.

Order for Second Reading Read, and discharged; Bill withdrawn.

BUILDING FEUS AND LEASES (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Monday 21st June.

COUNTY COURTS BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Wednesday 14th July.

LEASEHOLDERS (PURCHASE OF FEE SIMPLE) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Tuesday 29th June.

SHOPS (EARLY CLOSING) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Thursday 17th June.

SHOPS BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Thursday 17th June.

SHOP ASSISTANTS (HALF-HOLIDAY) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Thursday 17th June.

WORKING MEN'S DWELLINGS BILL [H.L.]

Second Reading deferred till Monday 21st June.

DISTRICT COUNCILS (WATER SUPPLY FACILITIES) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

POOR LAW OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION ACT (1896) AMENDMENT BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Tomorow.

SALE OF DISTRESS AMENDMENT BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Friday.

PARISH REGISTERS BILL.

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

POOR LAW BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Thursday.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS (IRELAND) BILL.

Committee deferred till Wednesday 7th July.

CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD (IRELAND) (COMPULSORY PURCHASE POWERS) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Thursday.

STEAM ENGINES AND BOILERS (PERSONS IN CHARGE) BILL.

Adjourned Debate on Motion for Committal to Standing Committee on Trade, Etc. [17th February] further adjourned till Thursday.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (1888) AMENDMENT (No. 2) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

ARCHDEACONRY OF LONDON (ADDITIONAL ENDOWMENTS) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

LABOUR BUREAUX BILL.

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

LICENSING EXEMPTION (HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

VERMINOUS PERSONS BILL.

Third Reading deferred till Thursday.

House Adjourned at Ten Minutes after Twelve o'Clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Wednesday, 2nd June 1897.

SMALLER DWELLINGS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Second Reading deferred from To-morrow till Friday 2nd July.

TRAWLERS' LICENSING BILL.

Second Reading deferred from To-morrow till Monday 28th June.

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

WORKMEN (COMPENSATION FOR ACCIDENTS) BILL.

Considered in Committee—[Progress, 1st June.]

[The CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS, Mr. J. W. LOWTHER, in the Chair.]

FIRST SCHEDULE.

Scale and Conditions of Compensation—Scale.

(1.) The amount of compensation under this Act shall be

(*a*) where death results from the injury—

(i) if the workman leave dependants, a sum equal to his earnings during the *three* years next preceding the injury, or the sum of *one hundred and fifty pounds*, whichever of those sums is the larger, but not exceeding in any case *three hundred pounds*, provided that the amount of any weekly payments made under this Act shall be deducted from such sum; and

(ii) if he leaves no dependants, the reasonable expenses of his medical attendance and burial, not exceeding *ten pounds*.

(*b*) in case of incapacity for work, a weekly ayment during the incapacity after the second veek not exceeding *fifty* per cent. of his veekly earnings at the time of the accident, uch weekly payment not to exceed *one pound*.

(2.) The payment shall, in case of death, be nade to the legal personal representative of he workman, or, if he has no legal personal epresentative, to his dependants, or, if he eaves no dependants, to the person to whom he expenses are due.

(3.) The expression "dependants" in this schedule means such members of the workman's family as are entitled to damages in cases under the Fatal Accidents Act 1846; and any question as to who is a dependant, or as to the amount payable to each dependant shall, in default of agreement, be settled by arbitration under this Act.

(4.) If any of the dependants is an infant his share of compensation may be invested for his benefit as directed by the arbitrator.

(5.) Any weekly payment may be reviewed at intervals of not less than *three* months at the request either of the employer or of the workman, and on such review may be ended, diminished, or increased, subject to the maximum above provided, and the amount of payment shall, in default of agreement, be settled by arbitration under this Act.

(6.) A weekly payment shall not be capable of being assigned or charged, and shall not pass to any other person by operation of law.

Amendment proposed [1st June] in Sub-section (*a*), Paragraph (*i*), to leave out from the word "leaves" to the end of the sub-section, and to insert the words:—

"a widow, the sum of 10s. per week during her life and widowhood, and, if he leaves children under the age of 16, the sum of 1s. 6d. per week for each such child until he or she attains that age. If the workman leaves no widow or children, but leaves dependants, the sum of 10s. per week during the life of such dependants, to be divided amongst such dependants, if more than one, in such proportions as the County Court Judge or arbitrator, as provided by the second schedule of this Act, shall direct; and"—*(Sir Alfred Hickman.)*

Question proposed, "That the word 'dependants' stand part of the Schedule."

Debate resumed.

*SIR ALFRED HICKMAN (Wolverhampton, W.) said that after what had fallen from the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary for the Colonies he saw no probability of his Amendment being carried, and therefore he asked leave to be allowed to withdraw it. He was anxious to avoid delaying the progress of the Bill by any lengthened discussion upon the Amendment.

SIR FRANCIS EVANS (Southampton) said that he desired to point out that it would be in the interest of employers that weekly charges arising out of claims under this Bill should be commuted for a lump sum in order to facilitate the effecting of insurances. He wished earnestly to press that fact upon Her Majesty's Government.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucester, Forest of Dean) said that on the previous night he had, in the interest of both employers and workmen, entered a protest against the principle of this Amendment. With regard to the question of incapacity caused by accident, it would be inconvenient and out of order to discuss that point upon the present occasion. If hon. Members opposite insisted upon the Amendment being negatived, so that its principle could not be further discussed, he should be forced to take a Division upon the question.

MR. ARTHUR STRAUSS (Cornwall, Camborne) said that before the Amendment was withdrawn he should like to ask the Government whether they could not bring forward some Amendment upon the Report stage which would meet the views of the hon. Member for West Wolverhampton? It was quite clear that a lump sum of £150 or £300 could not possibly purchase an adequate annuity for the injured workman. If the money were invested in setting the workman up in a small business it would probably be lost in a short time. When fatal accidents occurred in a colliery, a number of men were usually killed, and there would be no possible opening in a remote country district for some 15 or 20 widows to set up in small businesses in the same locality. The result would be that in a year or two the money paid by the employer would be lost, and the widow and children would have to be relieved from the rates. In the case of small collieries the payment of a lump sum of £5,000 or £10,000 would ruin the coal owner, and in many cases he would not be able to pay it, and the injured workmen or the widows would get nothing. He himself had placed an Amendment upon the Paper which was drawn up on somewhat liberal lines as far as the workmen were concerned. Under the practice that prevailed in Germany the widows of workmen who had lost their lives in the course of their employment received a weekly payment. This operated in favour of the employer, because in very many instances the widows married again.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS pointed out that it was unusual to make a speech on the question that leave be given to withdraw an Amendment unless it was intended to object to leave being given.

MR. STRAUSS said that he had no desire to object to the Amendment being withdrawn, but he would wind up by giving the Government the option of doing as they pleased in the matter. [*Ironical Ministerial cheers and laughter.*] The majority of the persons who received lump sums under the Bill would spend the money, and in the course of a year or two would have to be relieved from the rates.

MR. H. H. ASQUITH (Fife, E.) said that before leave was given to withdraw the Amendment he desired to say he had no doubt whatever that in the interest of the workmen, which was the primary consideration which ought to govern their minds, compensation should take the form of periodical payments rather than of a lump sum down. At the same time he suggested that between now and Report, the Government should consider whether discretion might not be given to the arbitrator to determine which course would be most in the interest of the family to be compensated.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.) suggested that the discussion of the point should be postponed until the Amendment respecting the commutation of the sum for incapacity, of which he had given notice came up.

SIR W. HOULDSWORTH (Manchester, N.W.) thought it was well that the Bill should be made to work automatically. He, therefore, suggested they should consider whether it would not be possible in the case of death to first of all pay a moderate sum—£10 or £15—to meet the funeral expenses, then to make weekly payments, and he would advise generous weekly payments during the first 12 months or possibly two years—he would prefer 12 months—in order to allow the family time to turn round and consider how they were going to live in the future, and at the end of 12 months to give a lump sum. He was sure such an arrangement would be the best in the interests of the working classes.

MR. JOHN BURNS (Battersea) was persuaded that the balance of advantage to the working classes was in favour of the compensation being paid by weekly instalments. He had acted with doctors, clergymen, and others as a trustee for widows and others who had received lump sums under the Employers' Liability Act, and he knew how the sums received were threatened with absorption either by relatives, who were not temperance people, and others who looked upon the sum as a happy hunting ground for them. A weekly allowance for a widow who had lost her husband was unquestionably the best form in which compensation could be given. It was said payment weekly would prevent the movement of the widow and family from the spot where the compensation was paid. That was a plausible but a ridiculous argument, because if the Government could make arrangements by means of which sailors' wages, which would be paid in Hamburg, for instance, should be transferred to the men's wives in Dublin or Inverness, surely arrangements could be made whereby compensation could be paid to a person if he or she removed from the spot where the injury was done. It might also be said that if £300 were paid in a lump sum it might be invested in a small business. Experience, however, proved that 80 per cent. of such businesses failed. Again, it might be argued that if a widow were paid 10s. or 15s. a week, she would ultimately lose, owing to the failure of the employer. That would be a very rare occurrence.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis) did not think the Committee realised the large amount of work they were reserving for report. They were really piling Pelion upon Ossa. Neither did he think they had yet appreciated the enormous amount of work that would be thrown by the Bill upon the Registrar General of Friendly Societies and the County Court Judge. He rose, however, to express the opinion that the question whether compensation should be paid in weekly instalments or in a lump sum ought to be determined upon the schedule.

MR. J. WILSON (Durham, Mid) entered a protest against the sweeping terms in which working men and working men's widows had been charged with squandering their money. Those terms required some qualification, because it would be wrong for the Committee to assume that every woman was unable to take care of £150 or put it to the best use. He admitted there were families who would no doubt squander the money, but what they wanted to do was to try and find the best means to meet those cases. He believed that this Bill would tend very much towards the formation of committees of employers and workmen, and that the arbitrator and County Court Judge would not have nearly so much work as was anticipated by some hon. Members. [" Hear, hear! "] If that proved to be the case, then he thought it would be well worth the consideration of the Government whether it would not be advisable to give these committees power to say whether they would pay over a lump sum or whether they would invest the sum in favour of the recipients.

*MR. CHARLES SEELY (Lincoln) pointed out that there were in existence at the present time, at any rate in the case of collieries, many relief funds which did provide for weekly payments to the widows. He would like to ask those in charge of the Bill whether it would not be possible to make some arrangement by which, if these relief funds were kept in existence, and an employer subscribed a reasonable amount to the funds, instead of paying the large amount of compensation due under the Bill to the widow, she should receive the money from the permanent relief fund, and that the compensation payable should be of a more moderate amount. The maximum under the Bill was £300; and he would suggest that this should be reduced to something like £50 or £100 to be paid down at once by the employer, and that the balance should be received by the widow in periodical allowances through the permanent relief funds. He acknowledged it would be a somewhat complicated scheme, but he thought that such an arrangement would be of great value to the widows.

MR. HENRY BROADHURST (Leicester) said that a more difficult problem to solve than this could scarcely be presented to the Committee. They could draw no hard-and-fast line on such a matter. There were as many intelligent widows of workmen as there were intelligent widows of men in other grades of society, and, while there were, no doubt, many cases in which a lump sum would be soon dissipated, there were a great many other cases in which it had helped to establish the widows in a little business which they had worked with considerable success. He was sure the

Government would carefully consider the question of giving the arbitrator some kind of option in the matter. If it were decided that the payment should be made weekly, he should like to see a lump sum taken from the employer at the earliest possible moment, and then that it should be invested in a trusteeship of a permanent character like a Government assurance. This would be far more advantageous to the recipients than that they should be dependent upon the continued solvency of any firm for their money. Some of the trade unions gave the men the option of taking a lump sum or a pension, and invariably, he believed, the workmen preferred the lump sum in order that they might make a venture with it.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN repeated that they had already undertaken to reconsider this branch of the Bill in the light of the decison which might be come to on the question as to how they were to deal with incapacity. He was afraid there were some hon. Members who did not quite understand how this matter would work in practice. Let them look at the Bill as it stood and see what would happen. They proposed, by an Amendment which stood in his name, at a subsequent period to give the arbitrator power to invest, at his discretion, any share of the compensation payable to the dependants for their benefit. The arbitrator might be such a committee as that referred to by the hon. Member for Durham. He hoped that would be the case. He entirely agreed with that hon. Member, and believed that the result of the Bill would be the establishment of committees of workmen and employers. If such a committee were established, to the committee would be left the question whether or not the lump sum should be invested, and there would be nothing to prevent them from investing the sum in such a relief society as his hon. Friend the Member for Lincoln referred to. Therefore all the advantages would be gained with at the same time a greater fredom of action than could be obtained by any statutory provision. In the further consideration which would be given to the matter, he thought the suggestion of his hon. Friend the Member for Manchester was well worthy of attention. That would bring this provision into line with the provision they proposed in the case of incapacity. ["Hear, hear!"] It would make the weekly payment certain for 12 months, and, at the expiry of that time, it would allow of commutation. ["Hear, hear!"]

Mr. LEES KNOWLES (Salford, W.) said he was president of one of the permanent relief societies in his own district, and held in his hands a copy of their rules. There was one rule to which he would like to call attention. It was this:—

> "The Committee may, under special circumstances, and at their absolute discretion, on the application of the person interested, commute any allowance under these rules at such fixed sum as they may think reasonable."

What he thought ought to be done was, in the first instance to give power to pay down a lump sum, which should be administered by one of these societies, and that then the visiting members of the society might, if desirable, afterwards commute the allowance.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

*Mr. A. D. PROVAND (Glasgow, Blackfriars) moved in Section (1) to leave out the words "if the workman leave dependants," and to insert the words "to a workman." The object of the Amendment was to leave "dependants" out of the Bill altogether, and to make the compensation payable without any reference to whether there were any dependants or not. As the Bill stood at present, it would be a powerful inducement to employers to engage only men who had no families. In the case of many small employers, it would be very easy to obtain five, ten, or twenty workmen who were bachelors, or who at least had no children. Employers should all be placed on the same footing, and compensation should be paid whether there were any dependants or not. There was a consequential Amendment further down the Paper, to enable the Government to retain the compensation recovered when there were no dependants, which would form a fund towards meeting the expenses of working the Act. He should like to know whether or not the Government would accept the principle.

*The SECRETARY of STATE for the HOME DEPARTMENT (Sir Matthew White Ridley, Lancashire, Blackpool) said the Government could not possibly accept the Amendment. The object of the Bill, or he should rather say one of the great objects of the Bill, was to give some form of maintenance to those who were dependent on the workman who happened to be killed by accident in the course of his employment. To accept the Amendment would really be to defeat one of the great objects of the Bill. ["Hear, hear!"]

Amendment negatived.

Mr. C. A. CRIPPS (Gloucester, Stroud) said the Committee had already dealt with two Amendments to leave out the word "dependants." His own Amendment was in the same form—to leave out "dependants" and insert alternative words. Of course he would take the Chairman's ruling, but it seemed to him that the same question arose here as in the two previous Amendments.

*The CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS: The hon. Member's Amendment does more than that. What he does is to define "dependants" as including wife, husband, parent, or child, and he says that these people are to be known hereafter as "dependants." If he will look at the schedule he will see that Sub-section 3 specially defines dependants; therefore, the proper place to raise the question of definition is on Sub-section 3.

Mr. CRIPPS asked if he should be in order to move the Amendment omitting the words "hereinafter referred to as dependants."

*The CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS: No; I do not think it would be in order. To begin with, the Amendment of the hon. Member for Glasgow was put in such a way that "dependants" does now stand part of the schedule. But in addition to that, I also conceive that the Amendment of the hon. Member for Stroud, whether these last words are in or not, is in fact a definition of what is meant by "dependants," and the proper place to raise the question of definition is on Sub-section 3.

Mr. J. W. CROMBIE (Kincardineshire) had the following Amendment on the Paper in Section (1), after the word "dependants," to insert the words—

"annuities of the Post Office, payable to said dependants, equivalent in amount either to."

The hon. Member asked whether his Amendment should not precede that of the hon. Member for Stroud?

*The CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS: I think the hon. Member for Kincardineshire's Motion should come at the end. When the Committee has decided on the particular sum that shall be paid, then the hon. Member will move that it be paid in a particular way, namely, through the Post Office or in any other way.

Mr. C. B. RENSHAW (Renfrew, W.) moved the Amendment standing in the name of the hon. Member for Ayrshire (Mr. Cochrane)—in Section (1) to leave out the words "a sum equal to his earnings during the three years next preceding the injury," and to insert the words—

"such sums as may be found to be equivalent to the estimated earnings during the three years preceding the injury of a person in the same grade employed during those years in the like employment, and in the district in which the workman is employed at the time of the injury."

He said the Amendment was similar to one he had himself placed on the Paper. It seemed to him there would be a great difficulty in working the application of this schedule, unless it was more clearly laid down what the precise earnings were that were to be fixed as the limit of the employers' liability. The schedule provided that if a workman was killed and left dependants, a sum equal to his earnings during the three years next preceding the injury should be paid them. The case he wished to put was this, and it was not an uncommon one—the case of a man who had been earning a high wage, and who had been by some cause thrown out of his employment. The man sought and obtained casual employment at a lower wage. If the new employer were to be liable on the scale of the higher wage, it was obvious that they would place a difficulty in the way of the man finding work. On the other hand, a young man who had been earning small wages might be promoted to a more highly paid, more responsible, and more dangerous post; and if he was to be compensated at the rate of the low wage he received in his previous employment, that would be an injustice to the workman. The words of the Amendment were taken from the Employers' Liability Act of 1880. They had already formed the subject of decisions in courts, and if that was so, some clear and well-defined legal view must have been already formed with regard to them.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Sir RICHARD WEBSTER, Isle of Wight) said it had been found in the working of the Employers' Liability Act that what was awarded under that Act was practically an average of a man's earnings during three years. A number of issues would be involved if the Amendment were carried. They would have to find out what the "like employment" was, and what district the man had been employed in, and so on. The principle of the Bill was that they should take the three years' earnings. It practically worked automatically. If a man happened to be out of employment and his earnings for 12 months did not average £150, he got the £150; if, on the other hand, he was fully employed and earned £160, £170, or £180, he got those amounts. This, he thought, was much simpler than to try to establish a hypothetical standard. ["Hear, hear!"]

COLONEL DENNY (Kilmarnock Burghs) pointed out that if a man passed from the grade of apprentice to that of journeyman he might spring at once from 10s. to £2 a week; but if, on an accident happening, his earnings were to be calculated on the scale of his apprentice pay for any considerable part of the three years, the chances were that he would come badly off. On the other hand, the £150 minimum might be a great deal more than he was entitled to. He had an Amendment lower down, that the compensation should be calculated on full time wages for the three years or such shorter time as the man might have been at work for the employer who became liable. A man's wages represented his value to his employer, and it was on that value that he ought to be compensated, not upon what he might have earned in perhaps half a dozen other places. In collieries the men were paid by piece work, but in most other trades there was a recognised time rate for every trade. If they took the time wage they would get a fixed sum, and that was much better than leaving it indefinite.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON (Tower Hamlets, Poplar) had no doubt that whether they adopted the words in the Bill or in the Amendment proposed, there would be a certain number of hard cases. He thoroughly agreed with the proposal of the Government as against the proposal in the Amendment of his hon. Friend opposite. He had been sitting for some time on the Fair Wages Committee, in which they had had to consider the question of the current rate of wages in the district and in the trade. The Committee had pointed out to them again and again the great difficulty which existed in many cases in arriving at what was or what was not the current rate in a district, and he thought if the arbitrator had, under this Measure to go into the question of what a man ought to be earning at a particular time, it would overlay the Bill with such complications as to lead to all the difficulties, litigation and complication which it was the one object of the Government and the Committee to avoid. He should certainly support the proposal of the Government.

MR. BURNS hoped the Government would adhere to the Bill as it stood, because he believed the bulk of the objections raised by the hon. Member for Kilmarnock would be removed by the minimum of £150 compensation under the Bill, and the three years being taken of a man's earnings before death would remove a number of objections. The way to make this absolutely perfect would be to knock off the maximum limit of £300, and so remove any difficulty. As, however, the Government were not inclined to do that, he hoped they would adhere to their own proposal as against the Amendment.

*SIR FRANCIS POWELL (Wigan) believed that to introduce a limit would be to cause complication and litigation, to greatly impede the action of the Bill, and to a large extent to defeat its object. He was desirous that the Bill, when it became an Act, should work as simply as possible, and he was glad the Government intended to adhere to the Bill as it stood.

MR. PARKER SMITH (Lanark, Partick) asked was not the fair solution of the difficulty to take as their basis of calculation the wages that a man was actually earning at the moment the accident happened. Under the Bill, as it stood, if a man had been in an employment for a month and then met with an accident, they would have to trace out all his earnings during the previous three years, and compensate him on that footing. The thing would cut equally both ways. They might have a man who was on the down grade in wages, and if they took the average for the last three years they would give him a little more than if they took the men's actual earnings at the moment. On the other hand, they were just as likely to have a man on the down grade, or who had just come out of his apprenticeship into full earnings. The two might be perfectly well set against each other, and would be about equal in amount. Was it not infinitely fairer as a basis of calculation, subject to the maximum limit of £300 and the minimum of £150, that they should take simply the wages that a man was earning at the moment in the occupation where he had met with the accident?

MR. LEES KNOWLES (Salford, W.) suggested to the Government that some words were required after the words "three years." Why not take the average of one year, during the three, or some shorter period than that indicated in the Bill.

MR. J. W. WILSON (Worcestershire, N.) thought that to go back over a period of three years would lead to trouble and necessitate a great deal of investigation, especially in a case where a man had worked for several different employers. At the same time, he considered there were also objections to taking the actual wage on the particular day or week in which the man was injured, and he should have liked the Government to have introduced some shorter period on which to take the average, multiplying it by the figure that was necessary to bring it up to the equivalent of three years.

SIR W. HOULDSWORTH did not like the words as they stood. Suppose that a man, during the three years, had been out of work for some time, that would evidently make the amount he had earned much less than the amount of compensation he would receive. Again, there would be some complication in going to a man's different employers to ascertain his earnings. The simple way would be to take his weekly wages at the time the man met with the accident.

MR. JOHN COLVILLE (Lanark, N.E.) supported the Amendment in the interests of the workmen. If any fatal accidents took place the foremen of large employers would see in filling up temporary posts that they did not engage men who would have to be paid more than it was usual to give in such temporary positions. The Government ought to give them some further information as to how the average was to be arrived at.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: There is no average. It is the actual amount received.

MR. COLVILLE considered that it was to the interests of the workmen that this Amendment should be accepted.

MR. STUART-WORTLEY (Sheffield, Hallam) pointed out that if they took as the basis of the calculation the actual wage that a man was receiving at the date of the accident, they would be following the practice that was now adopted in the case of superannuation. Again, it was the only thing that would afford a convenient measure of the value of the liability for the purpose of insurance. In that case alone would the insurance company be able to take the actual existing scale of payments as the basis of its liability.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN: Does not alternative sums cover that?

MR. CHARLES SEELY thought the Government had been right in taking the long period of three years. For instance, if they took the wages of the man at the date of the accident and multiplied it by 150, this might be the result: If a man was killed in a house-coal pit in the month of January, his widow would get £300; but if he was killed in June she would only get £150. He thought a committee of the workmen and employers were quite capable of dealing with the matter.

Amendment negatived.

MR. PARKER SMITH moved in Section (1) to leave out the words "equal to," and to insert the words "not exceeding." The hon. Member said the question he desired to raise was how far the principle of Lord Campbell's Act was to be adopted in the matter of dependants and compensation. The principle of that Act was that the jury had to consider how much the dependant was affected by the death of the person who happened to be killed. There were cases in which either the so-called dependants were not really pecuniarily injured by the death of the workman or where the injury, measured pecuniarily, was a very small one. Take the case of a father and son who were both earning full wages. Suppose the father was killed. The son, under the definition of Lord Campbell's Act, was of course, a dependant of the father, but was, in no sense, really dependent upon him for subsistence. Was it intended in a case of that sort, by the pure accident of the father being killed and when no money was really passing from father to son, that the son should have a windfall of £300? The effect of altering the words would be to give discretion to the arbitrator or Committee in circumstances where the substantial loss to the defendant did not amount even to the minimum sum named in the Bill, that same amount, less even than the minimum should be paid.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL said it was obvious that the Government could not accept this Amendment. [*Opposition cheers.*] It was against the interest of the workman. The view of the Government as to Lord Campbell's Act and its application was that money should only be paid to those who were wholly or partly dependant on the earnings of the workman at the time of his death. It was undesirable that the amount of compensation should be cut down by the considerations the hon. Member had just referred to.

MR. PARKER SMITH said the declaration of the Attorney General satisfactorily covered the object of the Amendment, and he would therefore withdraw it.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. E. H. PICKERSGILL (Bethnal Green, S.W.) moved, in Section (1), to leave out the words:—

"provided that the amount of any weekly payment made under this Act shall be deducted from such sum."

He submitted that any such deduction would be unfair, because the weekly payment during incapacity from work and the payment on death were made under a totally different set of circumstances. When the breadwinner was laid aside by accident, obviously the household expenses were increased beyond the normal rate, while the income was cut down to an amount not exceeding under the Bill one-half of the usual income. On the breadwinner's death, a new state of circumstances arose, for which provision had to be made, and the amount to be paid on death was not more than adequate. It would be a little mean to deduct from the sum payable on death the amount payable during incapacity.

Mr. Parker Smith.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN said the Government could not accept the Amendment and increase the burden on the employer in the sense proposed. They had resisted every Amendment which would lessen the advantages conferred on workmen by the Bill. In many cases a long illness might precede the death, and in such cases, if the Amendment were accepted, the burden on the employer would be largely increased.

Amendment negatived.

*MR. PROVAND moved, in Section (1), after the word "*pounds,*" to insert the words:—

"to an apprentice a sum equal to four and a-half years' wages at the rate of payment he was receiving at the time of the accident."

He remarked that the Amendment was designed to meet an obvious case of hardship. Compensation to apprentices should be estimated at a higher rate than to workmen.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN said they could not accept this Amendment, and he thought the hon. Gentleman had hardly grasped the effect of the Bill. The apprentice would get his £150 if his wages did not amount in three years to £300.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES said he did not quite understand the Bill as the right hon. Gentleman explained it. If they killed a man who had no wife, parent, or child, £10 would be paid, but if they killed a man who had such dependants, £300 would be paid. The effect of that would be that careful employers would advertise for unmarried orphans—[*laughter*]—because, in case of accidents, such men would be £290 cheaper. He thought this difference was a serious one.

MR. PROVAND asked if the word "workman" included "apprentice?"

*SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY: Yes.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. J. W. CROMBIE (Kincardineshire) moved, in Section (1), after the word "sum," to insert the words:—

"and such sum to be paid in the form of annuities of the Post Office payable to the dependants."

*SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY said he was afraid they could not accept these words. He thought the satisfactory way would be for the committees or the arbitrator to be the judge of what was best in the particular circumstances.

MR. ASQUITH thought the point raised was one worthy of consideration, but he hoped the hon. Member would not press the Amendment at this stage. It would be undesirable to tie the hands of the tribunal so completely.

*MR. J. SAMUEL (Stockton) said it had been represented by several speakers that the general feeling of Members on that side was that the working classes were in favour of weekly payments in cases of fatal injury, but he ventured to say there was a great divergence of opinion among working men as to whether this should be adopted or not. He dissented from the view that the tendency of the working classes was to spend too much. He held that the widows, orphans, or dependants should have the right of exercising their judgment as to what they should do with the money. There were a large number of widows who had engaged in businesses by investing the little capital which their husbands had left them. He thought that to make any hard-and-fast rule would be a serious injury to the working classes. He strongly opposed the Amendment.

SIR J. LENG (Dundee) said he could not agree with the hon. Member. He had had experience of a case where a charitable fund, amounting to several hundred pounds, was raised for the benefit of a widow. The trustees were for two or three years pestered by her to hand over the entire sum, but they thought it desirable in the interests of the children to retain some control over it, as the widow might have married some profligate fellow, and the children deprived of the amount. He thought it much better that the committees or the arbitrator should be allowed to control this money in the same way as wise trustees would do.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. T. W. NUSSEY (Pontefract) moved to leave out Section (6), and to insert:—

"(6) In case of permanent injury (including injury to or loss of sight or hearing, or limb or organ of the body or any mental derangement) a sum not exceeding two hundred and fifty pounds, provided that the amount of any weekly payments made under this Act shall be deducted from such sum."

To his mind the compensation which would be granted under the Bill would be quite insufficient, but it might be asked why did he fix on £250? He was not wedded to that amount. He was quite open to meet the Government on this point. The Amendment was not moved from an hostile spirit, but he thought that a serious mistake had been made in the schedule.

*SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY was quite ready to admit that there was no hostile feeling, but it was an Amendment which, looking to the interests of the Bill, the Government could not accept. If they once began to define various kinds of injuries they would have a Bill as long as the rival scheme which he saw down on the Orders. [*Laughter.*] He thought it a mistake to define a particular class of injuries, and not only that but also a particular amount to be awarded.

*MR. HARRISON stated that he had a Motion on the Paper dealing with these points—to leave out Sub-section (*b*), and to insert:—

(*b*) In case of permanent physical loss, as follows:—

In case such injury shall, within twelve calendar months from the occurrence of the accident causing such injury, directly cause to the workman the loss by physical separation whether by accident or surgical operation consequent thereon of a hand or a foot, or the complete and irrecoverable loss of sight of an eye, a payment for each such loss as aforesaid equal to fifty per cent. of the amount that would have been payable had death resulted from the injury under Section 1 (*a*), Sub-sections (i), (ii), provided the aggregate amount payable in respect of the accident causing such losses to such workman shall not exceed the maximum compensation payable under Section 1 (*a*), Sub-sections (i) and (ii).

(*c*) In case of temporary total disablement from attending to work, as follows:—

In case such injury shall, independently of all other causes, totally disable and prevent the workman for a period exceeding seven days from pursuing his employment, then during such disablement for a period not exceeding altogether fifty-one consecutive weeks, a weekly payment calculated from and commencing after the first week from the date of the accident causing the injury, not exceeding fifty per cent. of his weekly earnings at the time of the accident, such weekly payment not to exceed one pound.

(*d*) In case of permanent total disablement, as follows:—

If at the expiration of fifty-two weeks after the accident causing such injury it is proved by the certificate of two legally qualified medical practitioners appointed by the employer and workman and approved of by, or in case of difference appointed by the Board of Trade, that the injuries sustained will permanently and totally disable the workman from attending during life to work or business of any kind; then such a sum as would be payable to such workman, under the provisions of Sub-section (*a*), Sub-sections (i) and (ii), where death results from the injury. In the event of it not being certified by such legally qualified medical practitioners that the injuries sustained will permanently and totally disable the workman from attending to work or business of any kind during a period less than life and for a period mentioned in such certificate, then the said weekly payment shall be continued during the period mentioned in such certificate. The expense of such certificate or certificates shall be paid by the employer. At the expiration of the period mentioned in such certificate the weekly payment may, by agreement between the employer and workman, be ended, diminished, or increased, or it may be satisfied by a lump sum, and in default of agreement the question of amount only of weekly payment or lump sum to be paid shall be referred to arbitration under this Act, and on such arbitration it shall be assumed that the employment was one to which this Act applies, and was caused by a person for whose act or default the employer was responsible, and that the injury was caused by accident arising out of and in the course of the employment of the workman injured; and in estimating the amount of compensation it shall not be taken into consideration by whose act or default the accident was caused.

He concurred in the Amendment of the hon. Member for Pontefract so far as it related to the omission of Clause (*b*); not with a view to inserting the words mentioned in the Amendment now before the House, but with a view to inserting the Amendments which stood in his name. This was a compensation Bill; and the schedule was in substance a statutory policy between the workman and employer with the conditions that would be inserted in an ordinary policy. The first criticism he had to offer on the words of the Bill was on the opening portion of the Section (*b*), "In case of incapacity for work." They did not effect the object of the Bill. They were words and terms which were not known and did not appear in accident insurance policies. Accident insurance had grown up, and over a number of years the conditions of policies had been carefully considered, and apt words were now universally used in every accident policy to meet the case which those words were directed and intended to cover. "Incapacity for work" was a phrase long since discarded from the language used in accident policies. Other words had been adopted. How ineffectual were the words "incapacity for work" might be illustrated by the following case. Suppose in the textile industry a girl in a mill was injured in the eye, by a bit of machinery flying off, and that she was in the hands of the doctor three weeks, and then resumed work which she was capable of performing. Suppose that shortly afterwards she lost the sight of the eye from the accident. Under this assumed state of circumstances, she was in the words of the Act "incapacitated from work" only for three weeks, and under the Bill she would receive the week's compensation, but no compensation for the subsequent loss of the eye, the result of the accident. The insurance companies' policies did not use the term "incapacity for work," but "temporary or total disablement from attending to work," coupled also with an agreed compensation for the physical loss of an eye, or limb, or both eyes or both limbs. The illustration given showed that the words "incapacity for work" used in the Bill were not apt words and that "temporary total disablement from attending to work," or "permanent total disablement" with compensation for permanent physical loss ought to be substituted. Now in framing the wording of the policies, two objects had been aimed at by the offices; (*a*) The framing of the conditions to avoid litigation or dispute as to the quantum to be paid; (*b*) The reduction of the risks to defined amounts. An unlimited amount of risk would not be undertaken or insured against, and in order to be able to carry on the business the conditions of the policies aimed at definitiveness, and automatic compensation. That had been and was the aim of all accident assurance. In consequence there was rarely if ever litigation about the amount payable under the policy as between an office and an accident assured. This was effected by providing that for each physical loss of an eye, finger, hand, or limb, a fixed percentage of the sum assured should be paid; that for the combination of any two, the whole sum should be paid, as in the case of death, and that in case of disablement from carrying on work, the same should be for a fixed maximum total period. Now, the Government had included in the Bill many trades "not really dangerous" on the very ground that if the industry were included, the cost would be reassured at a very small cost. For instance, the textile industry, the assurance for accidents in which could be effected at a very low premium. But unless the terms of the policy or present schedule made the risks definite and certain the offices would not undertake the risks, and the trade or industry would be left to bear them wholly. The Colonial Secretary said with regard to insurance—

> "It is most important, in dealing with a Bill of this kind, in which we are seeking compensation for and relief to the workmen, and not punishment of the employer, that insurance should be encouraged and should be made easy in every way in which we can do so. I agree with my right hon. Friend that the uncertainty which may prevail at present in regard to the scheme for compensation in regard to permanent incapacity may interfere with the framing of a proper scale of insurance."

If that were so he thought it would be perfectly possible to make that provision more definite, so as to facilitate the process of insurance. Not only was it advantageous to the employers that they should have the terms of the policy laid down with such definitiveness that the risk might be such as the offices would undertake, but it was advantageous to the workmen that insurance should be encouraged, because the offices would not undertake the risk unless all employers assuring submitted to the following condition:—

> "The assured shall at all times use all reasonable precautions calculated to mitigate or remove risk or accident, and in particular shall provide all necessary, suitable, and efficient ways, machinery, appliances, plant and works, and shall take all reasonable steps to have the same properly supervised by competent persons, and kept in a proper state of repair and condition, and shall use his best endeavours to enforce the observance by all workmen and other persons in his employ or in the employ of a sub-contractor of all proper safeguards and precautions, and on any defects in the ways, machinery, appliances, plant, or works being discovered, shall at once take all necessary steps to remedy such defects, and in the meantime shall cause such additional precautions to be taken as the circumstances may require."

The offices insured all risks, but only on the employers covenanting to do all that lay in their power to prevent accident, and took a fixed liability for a term, or a lump sum, and had rates for dock service (loading and unloading) and electric supply (including risk of supply) and engineering heavy works, but in all these cases the offices would not enter into the business unless the maximum risk undertaken was fixed, fixed with the view of preventing litigation, as well as fixed in amounts. Now, the Amendments in his name, which he understood would not be in order, owing to the present Amendment, proposing to leave out the whole of the sub-section, were framed in insurance policy language and were copied from the forms which had been built up by the united experience of all offices and were daily in use. The first proposed in case of permanent physical loss, such as a limb, hand or foot, or loss of sight, 50 per cent. of the death sum for each limb; or in case of a loss of two, the whole sum. In case of temporary total disablement, the weekly sum mentioned in the Bill, not exceeding the period of a year, a period within which, as a rule, shock or permanent injury was found by experience to devolp themselves; that at the end of the year two medical practitioners appointed by the parties, or in case of difference by the Board of Trade, should certify if the injury be permanent, in which case the workman should be treated as dead. If he was not certified as permanently injured, then the weekly payment in the Bill should continue for the period mentioned in the certificate, and that at the end of that period, if the parties could not agree, the matter, limited, however, merely to the amount of compensation, and to that question only, should be referred to arbitration under the Act. The Home Secretary had spoken of these Amendments as a rival Bill, but so far from being a rival Bill they were proposals based on experience, framed with a view to introduce definitiveness, to remove questions from litigation, to be of such a nature as to protect the workman, and to prevent the employer from being shut out from effecting insurance; and in settling this statutory policy in the schedule it was expedient that the Government should avail themselves of the experience of the insurance offices, and of those terms and conditions in their powers which reduced disputes as to quantum to a minimum, and avoided litigation. ["Hear, hear!"] He did not know if he was in order in formally moving the Amendments, but if so he begged to move.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS said that the Amendment of the hon. Member for Pontefract was now before the House.

MR. NUSSEY said that he did not propose to put the Committee to the trouble of a division.

Amendment negatived.

On the return of the CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS, after the usual interval,

*MR. REGINALD McKENNA (Monmouth, N.) moved, in Sub-section (*b*), after the words "in case of," to insert the word "total." He said he wished by his Amendment to distinguish between total and partial incapacity, and to lay down a rigid rule for total incapacity on the same lines as in the case of death. He proposed, in the case of total incapacity, that the workman should receive a sum of 50 per cent. of his wages, and that the arbitrator should at once award that amount; in the case of partial incapacity he proposed that the amount should be 50 per cent. of the difference between what the man was able to earn after the accident and what he actually earned before. He submitted that this would facilitate the smooth working of the Measure and avoid a great deal of litigation.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, on behalf of the Government, said it was quite impossible to attempt to deal, so to speak, by a money scale, with a particular degree of incapacity. He had not the smallest doubt that if a man was totally incapacitated the arbitrator would award him 50 per cent. of his wages, but it would be wrong to give the arbitrator absolutely no discretion. The Government could not assent to taking out total incapacity and saying there should in that case be a hard and fast line of 50 per cent. without any power of reviewing the circumstances of the case. Therefore, he could not accept the Amendment. He took the opportunity to add that, doubt having been expressed as to whether "incapacity" included "partial" incapacity, he was prepared to accept a subsequent Amendment in the name of the hon. and learned Member for Dumfries, namely, the words "total or partial."

Amendment negatived.

SIR FRANCIS POWELL (Wigan) moved in Sub-section (b) to leave out the words "in case of incapacity for work," and to insert the words "where incapacity for work results from the injury."

Amendment agreed to.

MR. J. B. BALFOUR, on behalf of Sir T. REID, moved, in Sub-section (b), after the words "in case of," to insert the words "total or partial."

Amendment agreed to.

MR. RENSHAW moved in Sub-section (b), after the words "incapacity for work," to insert the words "a sum provided in the preceding Sub-section (a), or in the option of the employer." In other words, he proposed that the payment at the option of the employer should be the same capital sum as in the case of death. The Amendment raised the broad question as to whether or not, in the case of incapacity for work, there should be a limit to the liability of the employer. Reference had been made to the possible bankruptcy of the employer and the consequent loss of the contribution to the workman, but there was another serious case. Take the case of an aged employer and a young employé meeting with an incapacitating accident. The aged employer died, and his trustees might have to keep his estate open for years and years in order that the young workman's interest might be protected. This was a point which had attracted a great deal of attention, and there was a strong demand in the interests both of employers and workmen that some provision of this kind should be inserted.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL said the Government had already expressed their sympathy with the necessity of there being some limit to the weekly payment, but it would not be possible for them to accept the present Amendment, because it would put it in the power of any employer at once to commute the weekly payment by a payment of £150 or £300. The Government could not assent to such a stringent proposition, and he must oppose the Amendment.

MR. CRIPPS strongly urged that under any circumstances there ought to be some limit to the liability, in order that the employer might have a fair chance of insurance. Commutation was one provision in this direction. Another that should be inserted was the diminution of the weekly payments after the first year and the termination after a stated period of four or five years.

MR. R. B. HALDANE (Haddington) contended that the compensation to be paid to the dependants of a workman killed by an accident should be assessed on a different principle from the compensation paid to an injured workman.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN urged the Committee to come to a decision.

MR. RENSHAW asked leave to withdraw his Amendment, and

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. McKENNA, on behalf of Mr. ROBSON, moved in Sub-section (*b*), after the word "work," to insert the following words:—

"a sum sufficient to provide for the reasonable medical expenses of such injury, together with."

He said that the object of the Amendment was simply to add to the compensation the cost of the medical attendance, which must inevitably be involved by an accident.

*SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY said that the Bill had provided a liberal compensation, and he did not think it was advisable to extend the compensation.

*SIR C. DILKE moved to leave out the words "after the second week" in the subsection, providing that the weekly payment in case of incapacity for work shall begin after the second week of such incapacity. He said that he could not see why an injured man should get nothing for the first two weeks. It would generally be possible to deal with these cases very promptly by trade committees. As to shamming, that would be in serious cases, if at all, and not in cases where only a few days' compensation was involved.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN said that there were several Amendments dealing with this point, some in the opposite sense of the hon. Baronet's Amendment. In drafting the Bill originally the Government inserted a period of four weeks for which no payment should be made, but if the incapacity for work lasted over the four weeks the payment was to date back from the beginning. It was represented to the Government that this provision was a direct temptation to malingering. It would put an enormous temptation on the workman to strain the effects of an accident over the four weeks. The Government thought it better, therefore, that the initial period should not pay compensation in any circumstances; but, to accompany that alteration with an Amendment favourable to the workmen, the period of exclusion from compensation was reduced from four weeks to two weeks. The pecuniary result was almost exactly the same, and the temptation to shamming was removed. They had reduced the probability of malingering to the lowest possible amount. The hardship of a provision of this kind was not great to the workmen, because those small accidents, which did not last a long time, were provided for by the friendly societies. He hoped that explanation would be satisfactory to the right hon. Gentleman, but in any case the Government could not accept any alteration in the provision one way or the other.

Mr. J. WILSON (Durham, Mid) said he could see no reason why an injured workman should not receive the benefit of the Act in the first week after the accident. The experience both of the Durham, Northumberland, and Cumberland relief fund and the Cheshire and Lancashire relief fund was that in one-fourth of the accidents the incapacity lasted only two weeks and under; and therefore one-fourth of the accidents in mines would not be covered by the Bill. If the Act was to give an all-round benefit to the men injured, the Government should allow it to come into operation the week that a man was injured, according to the rule of the friendly societies.

Question put, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill," and agreed to.

*Sir C. DILKE said he had challenged a Division in the wrong way. He believed that in a case where the question was misunderstood and the challenge was given in the wrong way, it was usual to allow the opinion of the House to be taken.

*The CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS: I am afraid I cannot go back.

Mr. McKENNA moved in Sub-section (*b*), after the words "of his," to insert the word "average." The object of the Amendment was to secure that the amount of compensation for an accident was to be calculated on "the average weekly earnings of the injured man at the time of the accident." The injured man might be idle five days of the week, and on the sixth day, when he was employed, the accident might happen. As the Bill stood the compensation would be calculated on the one day's earnings of the injured man.

Amendment agreed to.

*Sir A. HICKMAN moved in Sub-section (*b*) to leave out the words "at the time of the accident," in order to insert the words "at that employment during the previous 12 months, but if the period of his engagement has been less than 12 months then the average during the period of his actual engagement."

Mr. Chamberlain.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN said the Government accepted the Amendment.

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. S. WOODS (Essex, Walthamstow) said it would be observed that, while the maximum amount of compensation was fixed at £1 per week, there was nothing in the Bill about the minimum amount of compensation. He therefore moved to insert after the words "such weekly payment not to exceed £1," to insert the words, "and not less than 10s." He knew from personal experience that if the Bill passed as it stood there would be no compensation in 30 or 40 per cent. of the accidents which occurred in the mines of Lancashire, for in those mines it was quite a common thing for a man to work three or four days in a week and yet at the end of the week have only a few shillings in wages in consequence of bad winding or a want of trucks to place his coal in.

*Sir C. DILKE pointed out that it would be necessary to safeguard the Amendment by inserting before the words it was suggested to be inserted, "in the case of such total incapacity."

*Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY said his impression was that the point raised by the hon. Member for Walthamstow was covered by the two last Amendments, but, without making any definite promise to accept the Amendment, the Government would consider the matter.

Mr. ASQUITH was glad the Government had promised to consider the subject. Of course it was impossible for the Registrar of Friendly Societies to certify that a scheme submitted to him was as good as that contained in the schedule unless he saw what the minimum as well as the maximum sum was.

Mr. WOODS said that the permanent relief societies, sick clubs, and friendly societies allowed 10s. a week as a minimum, on the ground that that was the least on which a man could maintain his family. If he could get anything in the nature of a promise that his point would be conceded he would not press his Amendment now.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN said they could not go beyond the undertaking given by the Home Secretary. The matter was more complicated than the hon. Member thought. There were a great number of accidents which occurred to people who had not wives and families to support, such as boys, girls, and bachelors.

MR. McKENNA moved to amend the proposed Amendment by inserting at the beginning of that Amendment the words "in case of such total incapacity." In Monmouthshire there were cases where, owing to the depression of trade, the average wages earned by coal hewers had not been more for a period lasting as long as three years than £1 a week. Those men would in case of total incapacity receive less compensation than 10s. a week unless a minimum were fixed by an Amendment such as that now proposed.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN remarked that the hon. Gentleman was quite entitled to move and press his Amendment, but if a division were taken the Government would be relieved from the pledge to consider the subject. ["Hear, hear!"]

Amendment to the proposed Amendment withdrawn.

MR. WOODS asked leave to withdraw the Amendment. [*Cries of* "No, no!"]

Amendment negatived.

MR. EMERSON BAINBRIDGE (Lincolnshire, Gainsborough) said that as the Committee proceeded with its work the opportunity for those who were as impressed as he was with the burdens which this Bill imposed became less, and in putting forward the Amendment which stood in his name, he felt that he had almost a last opportunity of bringing before the Committee the strong argument which existed in favour of reducing the weight of this Bill upon certain industries. Through the courtesy of the Colonial Secretary, he had had the opportunity outside the House of discussing certain figures with him, and he now finally proposed to bring those figures before the Committee. In a matter of such grave importance as this, one suffered from the misfortune that the smoking room contingent of the House, to the extent say of 100, could not form judgment from the facts presented to the Committee, but when the division bell rang simply took their marching orders, and this placed the advocates on both sides at a disadvantage. He wished to place before the Committee eight separate and forcible reasons for bringing forward this Amendment. (1) The chief other way of lessening the burden would have been by extending the time of exemption from a fortnight to four weeks, but owing to the position taken by the Government as to this, an Amendment to that effect was withdrawn. He did not understand, nor did the Government understand, till yesterday, that the total accidents which were comprised in the first fortnight only amounted to 20 per cent. of the whole of the disablement accidents which happened; but what was much more important, the cost of these only amounted to 5 per cent. of the total cost of disablement accidents, and, therefore, the burden imposed on the employers amounted to no less than 95 per cent. of the cost. It would be agreed this was a most serious proportion, and he questioned whether the House had realised this until he presented these figures, which were absolutely reliable. It was for this reason that as the Amendment with regard to the four weeks was lost, there was the more need for asking to have the maximum of 20s. brought down to 10s. The second reason which he wished to put forward was a very simple and very forcible one. There had been no crying demand for this Bill, but whether there had been a demand for it or not, there had certainly been no suggestion on the part of the workmen as to the amount which should be placed in the Bill as compensation. This came from the Government itself, and the figure of half the earnings or 20s. was put down as the maximum, but the best test of what was the amount which the workmen themselves thought was the right payment to give a man was surely the amount which under the present Permanent Relief Societies such a man got, and this equalised from 8s. to 10s. per week, and he contended that whatever sum the workmen's own societies fixed might finally be taken by the Government as representing their judgment, and what was the right figure, and no doubt this figure was arrived at partly because it was considered a fair figure to give to a man who probably had one or two members of his family working for him, and no doubt the workmen themselves had arranged a figure which would cause some check on malingering. This brought him to the third reason in support of this Amendment, and he wished to add a word to what he mentioned on this point at the Second Reading. Nobody knew better than the hon. Members who represented labour in the House, that it had been proved indisputably that with increased payment there was increased tendency to remain off work disabled, and he reminded the House again that the figures he gave before, namely, that in Lancashire and Cheshire, when the rate of payment rose from 6s. to 10s. per week, the average number of weeks at which the workmen remained incapacitated rose from 2·9 to 4·7 weeks, an increase of 70 per cent. Although there was some protest from the hon. Member for Leicester with regard to malingering, he felt sure the hon. Member knew it was a very serious drawback to the management of all societies formed for the relief in case of accidents. Some men had a natural tendency to be constantly as it was called on the club. The Committee might take it for granted that there is a certain figure for remuneration which, as it approached nearer the figure which a man earned when at work, formed a strong inducement to a large number of men to dwell as long as possible on the resources of the fund, and it seemed a mistake to offer any inducements in this direction. The fourth reason he wished to put forward in support of the Amendment related to the question of the continuance of the Miners' Permanent Relief Societies. The Miners' Permanent Relief Societies had now undivided funds of upwards of half a million, and the greater the remuneration or recompense paid under this Bill, the less likely they were to continue. Personally he hoped they would continue. They had been an untold benefit to many thousands of cases, and it was therefore undesirable to put in this Bill any compensation which would at all jeopardise the existence of these societies. The fifth reason was one which had a special reference to what would be considered to be the burden on the trade. The average of profit made on the coal was only a few pence per ton, and the burden upon coal mines, whether it was borne by the employer, the workman, or the consumer, could be safely taken at 2d. per ton if the rate which now existed in the Bill was maintained. Whilst the compensation was, as he had already pointed out, a fair one to the man who was damaged, it did seem desirable that this Bill should not suddenly be allowed to place what would be a very serious burden upon the coal and iron industries. A good deal had been said on this question in the House, but hon. Members would have a much better idea of what the feeling was if they saw the volume of correspondence from all parts of the country, and the strong feeling there was amongst the employers from the different districts who had been in the Lobby during the past few days. The sixth reason was this. The provisions of the Bill had created a very strong feeling of resentment in the minds of a very large number of people who were to some extent instrumental in placing the present Government in power, and he would suggest with all respect that if the Government could carry their Bill through, and in doing so reduce that strong feeling by making the burdens of the Bill less heavy, it would, for political reasons, be an advantage. He might say that during the past few days he had received an intimation from a certain section of his own constituents that he had better resign his seat, but that was no reason why he should be at all afraid of putting before the Committee what he considered to be a burden which was calculated to seriously depress one industry. ["Hear, hear!"]

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN said the Government could not under any circumstances accept the Amendment. [*Opposition cheers.*] It appeared to them to be an unreasonable Amendment. The hon. Gentleman had told them, in a rather pathetic way, that this might be regarded as the last note of the dying swan. [*Laughter.*] He was sure the Committee would bear with the hon. Gentleman on that account, and would be very glad to know that, when the question was decided upon this Amendment, it would not crop up again. ["Hear, hear!"] The hon. Gentleman stated in the course of his speech that he had had an interview with him and certain friends of his representing the Lancashire and Cheshire coal industry, at which he thought the hon. Gentleman said they had convinced him on certain points in regard to the pressure on the coal trade.

MR. BAINBRIDGE: I do not think I used the word "convinced." That would be rather a bold word. [*Laughter.*]

MR. CHAMBERLAIN said he rejoiced to have had the interview to which he referred, as it was to him most instructive and suggestive. He should not have referred to it, as he understood it was confidential, had not the hon. Gentleman himself raised the subject, but, as it had been raised, he was going to tell the Committee what the result of the interview was. He had not the least doubt of the good faith and sincerity of the gentlemen who came to see him on that occasion. They brought him calculations to show that the cost of this Bill upon the coal trade would amount to no less than 2·46d. per ton of coal raised in the Lancashire and Cheshire coal districts. They did not give him all the details on which they founded their calculations, but he was prepared, for the sake of argument, to accept everything which he was not able at the moment to check as being absolutely accurate, and he dealt in his conversation with them only with the matters which he was able to check. Let him tell the Committee the result. They calculated that there would be per 1,000 men employed 190 deaths, and that the charge on the trade for every single one of those deaths would be £300. That was the maximum under the Bill. The fact was that the maximum could only be reached where the wages were twice as much as the ordinary average wage in the trade. He did not say that it would never be reached, but for one case in which the maximum of £300 would be reached there were 30 cases in which the maximum charge would only be £10 for funeral expenses, because the man left no dependants. ["Hear, hear!"] He undertook to say that the average charge per death could not, on the face of these figures, be more than £150, and that at once struck off 50 per cent. of the charge which these gentlemen were going about saying would be imposed on their trade. [*Laughter and cheers.*] The average wage payable all over England was 26s. The half of that was 13s., and the death calculation upon that would give a little more than £150. But then they had got to deduct all those cases, which amounted to one-third of the total cases, in which there were no dependants, and in which the charge, instead of being £150, would be £10. The next item in their calculation was still more extraordinary. It dealt with cases of temporary disablement. He assumed their figures as to the number of those cases—namely, 16,297, and the average duration—namely, 4·7 weeks. Here, again, they calculated the compensation at the maximum of 20s. a week. It was perfectly evident that, as the average wage was 26s. a week, the average maximum would be only 13s. a week, and even that would have to be reduced because the matter was left in the discretion of the arbitrator, who would have to be satisfied in every case before he gave the maximum. ["Hear, hear!"] But even taking the monstrous and preposterous assumption that in every case the arbitrator would give the maximum there would be another 35 per cent. to come off this calculation. But that was not all. Their calculation as to the duration of accidents was 4·7 weeks. He was struck with that, because it did not agree with his own calculation. He asked them where the allowance was for the two weeks in the Bill for which they would make no payment at all, and their reply was that the total average of duration for temporary accidents was 4·7 weeks. He found that, while on the one hand they had calculated the compensation for 4$\frac{3}{4}$ weeks at the maximum of 20s., they had deducted for the two weeks at the rate which was ordinarily paid, and which was not 20s., but something about a quarter of that amount. That, again, would account for a large percentage of difference. The hon. Gentleman opposite had given him the opportunity of, he thought, finally destroying this absurd calculation of 2½d. per ton, so far, at any rate, as the Lancashire and Cheshire districts were concerned, and, of course, it was of great importance to the coal owners that they should be aware, as far as they could estimate, what the charge on their trade was to be. As he had said, he believed they were much more frightened than hurt, and they had been frightened by these calculations, made, no doubt, in good faith, but which would not stand a moment's examination. The third item in their calculation was for permanent disablement, which they put at 4½ per 1,000, and for which they took an average duration of 3½ years. He thought that was a fair calculation, except that again they reckoned that these permanent disablements were to be calculated at the maximum of 20s. a week as for death, whereas if the maximum were given in every case it could only be 13s. a week. He was convinced that the more this matter was examined into the more the coal owners themselves would come to the conclusion that the Home Secretary, who dealt with the whole coal trade of the United Kingdom, was perfectly right when he said that the charge would not exceed ¾d. per ton. As to the particular point before the Committee, he certainly thought the maximum of 20s. not at all an unreasonable one, and it was based exactly on the same calculation as that which had already induced the Committee to fix the maximum of compensation in case of death at £300. ["Hear, hear!"] But do not let colliery owners imagine, because there was a maximum in the Bill, that the maximum would always be reached in every case of compensation. ["Hear, hear!"]

*COLONEL BLUNDELL (Lancashire, Ince) was afraid that when men were put on the sick-list at a pound a week there would be a very great deal of waste, and the waste would eventually fall upon the men employed as well as upon their employers, unless there was some efficient supervision. He thought the men ought to consider that matter. The real difficulty in this point of the Bill was that the workman would not put his hand to the plough. In the Lancashire and Cheshire experience no one had ever suffered from any bankruptcy, for the simple reason that all were on a level as regarded insurance. What was wanted here was some mutual insurance to cover the time a man suffering from a slight injury was being supported, subscribed to not only by the employers, but by his own people, so that they would then get the supervision of the injured man's fellow-workmen. That was what they wanted, and there was no machinery in the Bill to supply its place. The thing they required was that, as in Germany, there should be supervision of the workman by his fellow-worker. It was perfectly true that in some cases men might go back to work much too soon; but he believed that in every class there were always some who held back longer than they ought, and it would be the case in the industries affected by the Bill, and as he had said, there would be great waste, and it would fall ultimately on the working man himself. He felt that a great mistake had been made in not making the workman from the beginning take a part in his own insurance. What had been said about the Lancashire and Cheshire Fund as to the payments of the men he could not for a moment admit.

Amendment negatived.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN moved in Subsection (*b*), after the words "*one pound*," to insert:—

"(2) In fixing the amount of the weekly payment regard shall be had to the difference between the amount of the weekly earnings of the workman before the accident and the amount which he is able to earn after the accident."

He thought this would be in harmony with the general opinion of the Committee. Of course, it was never intended or desired that a workman who was still able to earn after an accident nearly the same wages as he earned before, should be pensioned for the rest of his life. ["Hear, hear!"]

Amendment agreed to.

*Sir A. HICKMAN moved in Sub-section (*b*), after the words "*one pound,*" to insert:—

"Provided that he obtain from the medical officer appointed by the Secretary of State for the district in which he resides, or from the medical officer appointed by his employer for that purpose, weekly, a certificate of such disablement."

The object of his Amendment, he said, was to provide a simple means of testing incapacity. The only means provided by the Bill was arbitration, but they could not have arbitration every week, and it was necessary that incapacity should be frequently tested, much oftener, at any rate, than was provided for. Some provision of this kind was found necessary in all cases, whether of friendly societies or arrangements between workmen and employers; and the custom had been that a man should report himself to the surgeon of the works or of the colliery weekly.

*The CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS asked the hon. Member to what medical officer for the district the Amendment referred?

*Sir A. HICKMAN said what he intended to suggest was that it should be a person appointed by the employer in the first place, but if that were not considered satisfactory by the workman that a medical officer of the district should be appointed by the Home Secretary.

The CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS: There is no provision in this Bill for the salary of a medical officer to be appointed by the Secretary of State, and there is no power in the Secretary of State to appoint such an officer. If the hon. Member will confine his Amendment to the medical officers appointed by the employer, it will be in order, but he cannot move at this stage to insert medical officer appointed by the Secretary of State.

*Sir CHARLES DILKE, on a point of order, said he had an Amendment on the second schedule for the appointment of a medical officer by the Secretary of State, *qua* the arbitration. He assumed that the ruling the Chairman was now giving with regard to the general appointment of a medical officer by the Secretary of State would not apply to the medical officer appointed in connection with arbitration. The point, the Chairman would remember, was raised on the Expenses Vote, and it was explained that the Expenses Vote would be wide enough to include that.

*The CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS: The Resolution of the Committee enabled a charge to be imposed, so far as relates to arbitration, but it does not cover the case raised by the hon. Member in his Amendment.

*Sir A. HICKMAN: May I suggest that instead of "appointed by the Secretary of State" we might have "the medical officer of health for the district," who is already paid by the State. [Hon. Members: "There may not be one." "Why not say a medical officer?"] Then I would say, "by the medical officer of health for the district if any."

*The CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS intimated that those words would be in order.

*Sir A. HICKMAN said that in all friendly societies and in all friendly arrangements between workmen and employers it had been found necessary to have some arrangement for a periodical report from the surgeon; and he had no doubt that something of the kind would be found to be necessary by experience in this case. The temptation to malingering would be immensely increased by the Bill as it stood. It had been found in practice that in proportion to the amount of compensation, so the number of accidents increased, and also the duration of the incapacity—in direct proportion. Nobody, he was sure, wished to facilitate malingering, which was quite as inimical to those who represented the working classes as to those who had to pay. It did injury all round, and undoubtedly the money paid to malingerers must come partly, at any rate, out of the pockets of the working men who were honest. It was in the interest of everybody desirable that every possible precaution should be taken to prevent anything of the sort.

*Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY said the object of the hon. Member's Amendment was a reasonable one. It might, no doubt, be necessary to provide for reviewing the weekly payments with a view to increasing or diminishing them according as the consequences of the accidents increased or diminished in seriousness. But to provide for a medical certificate once a week was going beyond the circumstances and requirements of the case. ["Hear, hear!"] With reference to the particular provision proposed, he might point out to his hon. Friend that the medical officer of health was scarcely the person to act in surgical cases. ["Hear, hear!"] That, he felt sure, could not be accepted. The question was to come up (with reference to the appointment of a medical officer) on another part of the schedule, on the Amendment of the right hon. Member for the Forest of Dean. But that was in a very different category from this. Weekly inspections could not be seriously thought of; but he thought the principle of the Amendment perfectly fair. The point would arise on Sub-section (5) of the schedule; and if the hon. Member thought the period of review ought to be more frequent than three months, something could be done on that part of the schedule. He hoped, therefore, that the hon. Member would not press his Amendment.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

*Sir FRANCIS POWELL moved, in Sub-section (*b*), after the words last added, to insert the words:—

"the payment shall be made on the application of the person entitled thereto, or his authorised representative."

Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY had no objection to the insertion of the words, though he was not aware that they were necessary.

Mr. BROADHURST thought the words were quite unnecessary, and might be mischievous.

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. PARKER SMITH had an Amendment on the Paper, proposing, at the end of Sub-section (*b*), to insert:—

"Provided that such weekly payments may at any time be commuted by the payment of such sum as with any previous weekly payments shall amount to the maximum sum which would have been payable if death had resulted from the accident."

The hon. Member, on a point of order, said the Secretary to the Colonies had appealed to them to take the discussion on points of this kind on the Amendment of the right hon. Gentleman, which stood on page 16. He was anxious to consult the wishes of the right hon. Gentleman, and he should like to know if the two points raised on the present Amendment could be raised by moving to amend the Amendment of the right hon. Gentleman? If so, he would be willing to abstain from moving his Amendment.

*The CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS: Yes; I think that course may be taken, or else it will be possible to discuss the question of the limit of the amount on the next Amendment which stands upon the Paper, which raises that question, and that question only.

Mr. PARKER SMITH: That being so, it will be convenient that I should not move the Amendment which stands in my name.

Colonel MILWARD (Stratford-upon-Avon) moved, in Sub-section (*b*), after the words last added, to insert the words:—

"provided always that the total amount of such payment shall not exceed the sum payable if death had resulted from the injury."

The hon. Member argued that it was necessary that some limit should be placed on the sum which should be payable. If an unlimited liability was hanging over a mine-owner or a manufacturer, he did not see how he could possibly insure, or, at all events, how he could advantageously insure. It was, therefore, very desirable that they should limit the sum payable to the injured person. In fixing such a limit, they should only be following the example of the benefit societies which existed at the present time, and which had their full pay, their half-pay, and their diminished pay. He thought it was fair to suggest that the limit an employer should be called upon to pay to an injured man should be the sum which would be payable in the case of death. They had also to consider the case of employers who wished either to sell their business, change their partners, or realise in some way or another. He ventured to say that with an unlimited liability hanging over a business, it would be almost impossible to do any of these things. What would the goodwill of a business be worth if it had to make weekly payments to three or four injured persons? Suppose they had four injured men, each of whom was in receipt of a weekly sum of 15s. for permanent incapacity. That would represent £156 a year, and would create a liability on the business of £4,680. What would become of the goodwill of a business of that kind? A liability of that nature would swallow up the goodwill of any moderate-sized business; therefore, while it was right that they should be generous towards the working man, he thought it very important that a limit should be put on the amount which he was to receive. He begged to move the Amendment.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN observed that he had an Amendment on the Paper for a later stage which raised a question closely connected with the one dealt with by the present proposal, and all the objections of his hon. Friend could be met when they came to the subsequent Amendment. All he could say now was that he could not go quite as far as the hon. Gentleman, and say that in no circumstances ought more to be paid for total incapacity than would be paid in the case of death. ["Hear, hear!"] In the case of death they were paying the persons who were not the sufferers except pecuniarily. They were only making to them certain pecuniary compensation, but in the case of injury they had got a man who was mutilated for life, and it was to this man that the payment was to be made. Compensation in cases of incapacity should be on a more liberal scale than in those of death when they compensated those who had suffered only by the loss of the services of the person killed.

Mr. CRIPPS submitted that the principle of limitation was applicable as much to the system of weekly payments as to the payment of a lump sum. Where the weekly payments were commuted the employer knew the extent of his liability.

*Sir C. DILKE contended that the limitation proposed by the Amendment was unjust in principle, and quite impossible to work in practice.

Mr. PARKER SMITH agreed that the total of the weekly payments should be limited like the payment in case of death.

Mr. BRYN ROBERTS (Carnarvonshire, Eifion) said there was no more uncertainty about the extent of the weekly payments than the ordinary uncertainty of life which insurance societies accepted. He argued that the payment of a lump sum would be far more advantageous to the workman. The employer would naturally prefer weekly payments and to take the chance of the injured man dying, coming into a fortune, or emigrating before the time was up.

Mr. GIBSON BOWLES said the provisions of the Bill should be made as certain as possible if it was to work well. The justice of the Amendment was undoubted. If compensation was to be measured by the gravity of the accident and the injury inflicted, the greatest injury that could be inflicted on a man, surely, was to kill him. [" Hear, hear! "] Consequently any injury short of that should not be visited by compensation of a larger amount than would have been the case if death resulted. He considered the Amendment to be a perfectly reasonable one.

Colonel MILWARD said, in the hope that the Colonial Secretary would consider the point raised by his Amendment between now and the Report stage he would withdraw the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. W. E. M. TOMLINSON (Preston) moved at the end of Section (2) to insert:—

"The employer shall not be liable to pay any sum of money for compensation under this Act which shall not have been applied for within three months after the time when the same became payable."

Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY said he was not prepared to accept the Amendment at present, but he would consider the point.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Colonel MILWARD moved at the end of Section (2) to insert words with the object of making the sum payable under certain conditions to 12 nominees approved by the County Court Judge, to be invested or expended by the said nominees for the benefit of the beneficiary or beneficiaries.

Mr. SYDNEY GEDGE (Walsall) said the Registrar of the Court of Chancery would generally compel these nominees to pay the money over to the beneficiary at once. He doubted if the words proposed would effect their object.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN pointed out that he had an Amendment on the Paper giving discretion to the arbitrator to invest this money, and he hoped that would meet the case.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. E. H. PICKERSGILL (Bethnal Green, S.W.) moved in Section (3) to leave out the words:—

"means such members of the workman's family as are entitled to damages in cases under the Fatal Accidents Act 1846,"

and to insert the words:—

"the wife, husband, grandparent, stepfather, stepmother, child, grandchild, stepson, stepdaughter, brother, and sister of the workman."

The first part of the Amendment simply specified the relationships which were enumerated in the Act of 1846, which he thought was preferable to legislating by reference. To these he had added "brother and sister," as it often happened that the brother or sister of the deceased workman had become the main or sole support of the family.

Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY said he had intended to put an Amendment on the Paper proposing that the first part of the sub-section should read:—

"The expression 'dependants' in this schedule means such members of the workman's family specified in the Fatal Accidents Act 1846 as were wholly or partly dependant on the earnings of the workman at the time of or immediately prior to his death."

The Fatal Accidents Act had been in operation since 1846, and had been perfectly understood. As to its extension to other relationships, he was aware that some hon. Members desired it to be extended to illegitimate children—["hear, hear!"]—but as the Act of 1846 was clear and precise, and had given complete satisfaction he thought it was better not to attempt to extend the relationships.

MR. PICKERSGILL said that on the drafting point he understood the words he proposed to put into the Bill were really shorter than the words in the Bill as drawn. He felt so strongly that the words "brother and sister" ought to be included that he must press the matter to a division.

MR. McKENNA called attention to the next Amendment on the Paper in the name of the hon. Member for the Northwich division of Cheshire (Sir John Brunner). That Amendment ran:—

"The grandparent, parent, stepfather, stepmother, husband, wife, brother, sister, child, stepchild, and grandchild of the workman, or any one or more of them, who shall at the time of the death of the workman be dependant wholly or partially upon the wages of the workman: Provided that the words 'brother,' 'sister,' and 'child' shall, if the arbitrator think fit, be construed to include an illegitimate brother, sister, and child, and the word 'parent' to include the unmarried mother of the workman, who was or were at the time of the workman's death living in the house of the deceased: Provided that the word 'dependant' shall in no case be construed to include a person of unsound mind."

There would in some cases be very great hardship if under certain circumstances illegitimate children were not to receive any benefit.

MR. BRYN ROBERTS mentioned the case of persons who might have undertaken to bring up a child having no child of their own. It would be a great hardship if such children were not allowed to participate. For his part he should not confine it to relatives at all, but extend compensation to every person immediately dependant upon the man without reference to relationship.

Question put, "That the words 'such members of the workman's family" stand part of the Schedule."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 208; Noes, 89.—(Division List, No. 233.)

And, it being half-past Five of the clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress; to sit again To-morrow.

STREET NOISES BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Wednesday 30th June.

PLACES OF WORSHIP (LEASEHOLD ENFRANCHISEMENT) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Wednesday 16th June.

POLICE (SCOTLAND) LAW AMENDMENT BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Thursday 1st July.

RAILWAY RETURN TICKETS BILL.

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

WORKING MEN'S DWELLINGS (No. 2) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Wednesday 30th June.

INDUSTRIAL AND PROVIDENT AND INCORPORATED BUILDING SOCIETIES (PURCHASE OF FEE SIMPLE) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Monday 28th June.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Wednesday 30th June.

LEASEHOLDERS (PURCHASE OF FEE SIMPLE) (No. 2) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Wednesday 30th June.

TOWN HOLDINGS (TENANTS' COMPENSATION) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Friday 2nd July.

HIGHWAYS BILL.

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

LIQUOR TRAFFIC LOCAL VETO (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Monday 28th June.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (1894) AMENDMENT (No. 2) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

BENEFICES BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Friday 25th June.

BENEFICES (No. 2) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Friday 25th June.

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Thursday 24th June.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (COUNTY COUNCIL CLERKS) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Thursday 24th June.

GROUND GAME ACT (EXTENSION TO COPYHOLDERS) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

JURORS' EXPENSES BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Monday 14th June.

COMMONS (REGULATION) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Monday 28th June.

RIVERS POLLUTION PREVENTION BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Monday 28th June.

POLICE PENSIONS AND SERVICE BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Wednesday 30th June.

MIDWIVES' REGISTRATION BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Wednesday 30th June.

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION BILL [H.L.].

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

SUPPLY.

Committee deferred till Friday.

WAYS AND MEANS.

Committee deferred till Friday.

COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEAL BILL.

Adjourned Debate on Motion for Committal to Select Committee [24th March] further adjourned till To-morrow.

POLICE APPOINTMENT AND PROMOTION BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Wednesday 30th June.

DISTRICT COUNCILS (WATER SUPPLY FACILITIES) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Thursday 17th June.

POOR LAW OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION ACT (1896) AMENDMENT BILL.

Committee deferred till To-morrow.

PARISH REGISTERS BILL.

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (1888) AMENDMENT (No. 2) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

ARCHDEACONRY OF LONDON (ADDITIONAL ENDOWMENTS) BILL.

Adjourned Debate on Second Reading [24th February] further adjourned till To-morrow.

LABOUR BUREAUX BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Friday.

LICENSING EXEMPTION (HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

MOTION.

PARISH COUNCILS (SCOTLAND) (CASUAL VACANCIES).

Bill to make better provision for filling up casual vacancies in Parish Councils, ordered to be brought in by Sir William Wedderburn, Mr. Renshaw, Mr. Parker Smith, and Sir Thomas Gibson-Carmichael; presented accordingly, and Read the First time; to be Read a Second time upon Friday 25th June, and to be printed.—[Bill 279.]

CONGESTED DISTRICTS (SCOTLAND) [GRNAT].

Committee to consider of authorising the payment of a sum, out of moneys to be provided by Parliament, for the improvement of Congested Districts in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland (Queen's Recommendation signified), To-morrow.—(*Sir William Walrond.*)

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND) [GRANTS].

Committee to consider of authorising the payment, out of moneys to be provided by Parliament, of an increase to the Grant payable to School Boards in Scotland under the proviso of Section 67 of the Education (Scotland) Act 1872, and also of Grant in aid of Voluntary Schools in Scotland (Queen's Recommendation signified), To-morrow.—(*Sir William Walrond.*)

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

On the Question, "That this House do now adjourn,"

*Sir C. DILKE asked the First Lord of the Treasury whether, in the event of the Compensation Bill not being finished to-morrow, it would be taken on Friday?

The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.) said he was very anxious not to interfere with the working of the Friday Rule, but he thought it would be admitted that a morning sitting on Friday before the holidays hardly counted as an ordinary Friday sitting. He proposed that the House should meet at Twelve o'clock on Friday to finish the Compensation Bill if necessary—he hoped it would not be necessary—and to advance certain non-controversial Bills. In those circumstances the House would adjourn to Thursday, June 17.

Mr. ASQUITH hoped it might be clearly understood that no contentious business would be taken.

The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY thought they might pass the uncontroversial clauses of the Finance Bill and the adjourned Debate on the Motion to send the Foreign Prison-Made Goods Bill to the Standing Committee. Then he thought the Public Offices (Whitehall) Sites Bill, the Post Office Sites Bill, and the Extraordinary Tithe Bill might be advanced a stage. Several Scotch Members had made an appeal to him to introduce the Congested Districts Bill and the Education Bill for Scotland. Those were Finance Bills, and must be introduced in Committee of the whole House, and he would propose that they should be introduced.

MR. ASQUITH suggested that the Foreign Prison-Made Goods Bill should be omitted from the right hon. Gentleman's list.

MR. JOHN DILLON (Mayo, E.) asked whether the Motion for the Adjournment on Friday would be made at the beginning or the close of the proceedings?

MR. BROADHURST asked if he was to understand that in the case of the Compensation Bill going over to Friday the House would meet at Twelve o'clock instead of Two?

MR. T. LOUGH (Islington, W.) suggested that the Prison-made Goods Bill was too controversial to be taken on Friday.

MR. BUCHANAN (Aberdeenshire, E.) doubted whether many Scotch Members had any idea that the Resolution relating to the Scotch Education Bill would be taken before the holidays? It was undesirable that the Resolution should be taken on Friday, sufficient notice not having been given.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY said he would not press the matter, but that it had been his opinion that the Scotch Members would welcome the proposal to take the Resolution on Friday. He presumed that the same objection was not entertained against his proposal with regard to the Scotch Congested Districts Bill. That subject, therefore, would be raised on Friday, and the education Resolution would be deferred until after Whitsuntide. He would not insist on taking a stage of the Prison-Made Goods Bill on Friday, although he might remind the House that the only point which would have to be settled was whether the Bill should be referred to a Grand Committee, and that upon the Motion so to refer it the merits of the Measure could not be discussed. In any case the House would meet at Twelve o'clock on Friday. The Motion for the adjournment over the holidays would be made to-morrow at the commencement of public business. Supply would not be taken on Friday.

MR. RENSHAW declared that it would be very convenient if the Resolution respecting the Scotch Education Bill could be introduced before Whitsuntide, as Members would then be better able to discuss the subject with their constituents during the holidays.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY repeated that he would not take the Resolution if a considerable number of Scotch Members objected to his doing so. Perhaps between now and Friday some convenient arrangement might be made.

MR. BROADHURST asked whether it was necessary to make the Motion with regard to the holidays at the commencement of public business to-morrow. He feared that the discussion of the questions which would be raised on that Motion might delay considerably the resumption of the Debate on the Workmen's Compensation Bill.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY replied that he had no reason to believe that the discussion on the Motion would be a long one. It was, of course, the privilege of hon. Members to raise questions on the Motion; but he felt sure that the privilege would not be abused.

MR. CALDWELL (Lanarkshire, Mid) remarked that the Resolution on which to found the Education Bill for Scotland was a most important stage, because it would fix the amount of the money that was to be allocated for the purpose.

House Adjourned at Ten Minutes before Six o'Clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Thursday, 3rd June 1897.

COMMISSION.

The following Bills received the Royal Assent:—

Aberbrothwick Harbour.
Appeal in Certain Civil Matters (Ireland).
Archdeaconry of Cornwall.
Ashford Urban District Gas.
Assam Railways and Trading Company.
Birmingham, Tame, and Rea District Drainage Board.
Bray and Enniskerry Railway (Extension of Time).
Bristol Tramways.
Charing Cross, Euston, and Hampstead Railway.
Chichester Corporation Water.
Clackmannan (Alloa and Tillicoultry) Water Supply Provisional Order.
Clyde Navigation (Extension of Time).
Cowes Gas.
Craigcrook Mortification.
Crichton Royal Institution.
Devonport Water.
Dumfries and Maxwelltown Water.
East India Company's Officers Superannuation.
Edinburgh Corporation.
Edinburgh University (Transfer of Patronage).
Elementary Education Act 1870 Amendment.
Epsom Downs Extension Railway.
Glasgow Harbour Tunnel Company.
Great Eastern Railway (New Lines).
Great Eastern Railway (Lowestoft Harbour).
Great Northern Railway.
Great Western Railway (Truro and Newquay Railway).
Huddersfield Corporation.
Lancashire, Derbyshire, and East Coast Railway.
Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 1).
London and North Western Railway.
London and North Western Railway (Wales).
London and South Western Railway (Meon Valley Railway).
London Bank of Australia.
London (Clare Market, Strand) Provisional Order.
Loughborough Corporation.
Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire Railway.
Mason's Orphanage.
Mason University College.
Metropolitan Police Courts (Holidays).
Mumbles Railway and Pier (Extension of Time).
Navy and Marines (Wills) Act (1865) Amendment.
Neath Corporation Tramways.
Neath Harbour (Extension of Time).
North London Commercial Permanent Building Society.
Paisley Waterworks Provisional Order.
Perth Improvements.
Plymouth Corporation.
Provident Life Office.
Railway Assessors (Scotland) Superannuation.
Railway Passengers' Assurance.
Regular and Elders' Widows' Funds.
Richmond District Lunatic Asylum.
St. Patrick's Park, Dublin.
Taunton Gas.
Torquay Corporation Water.
Trusts (Scotland).
Tynemouth Gas.
Weymouth Gas.
Whiting's Patent.
Wigan Junction Railways.

The Lords Commissioners were the LORD CHANCELLOR (Lord Halsbury), Lord HOPETOUN, and Earl WALDEGRAVE.

THE LORD FOXFORD (E. LIMERICK).

Sat first in Parliament after the death of his father.

THE LORD DE MAULEY.

Sat first in Parliament after the death of his father.

JURIES DETENTION BILL.

Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to.

PREFERENTIAL PAYMENTS IN BANKRUPTCY ACT (1888) AMENDMENT BILL.

Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to.

QUARTER SESSIONS JURORS (IRELAND) BILL.

Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to.

EXCISE LICENCES BILL [H.L.].

VISCOUNT PEEL, in moving the Second Reading of this Bill, said it was a Bill for the consolidation of the many provisions relating to Excise licences. The Liquor Commission, with which he had the honour to be connected, had felt in course of their inquiry that it would be of great use if there were a consolidation of the various enactments relating to one branch of the subject on which they were engaged. The principal Acts were passed as long ago as 70 years and more, and in the course of that time various provisions had been passed—some contradictory to existing enactments, some explanatory, and some repealing. The whole state of the law was in the utmost confusion, and if this Bill were allowed to pass as many as 25 Acts would be totally repealed and about 52 others would be partially repealed. The Bill did not in any way affect that branch of the subject which dealt with the law as administered by the justices and local authorities, but simply with the provisions of the law relating to Excise licences. It embraced a great deal more than licences connected with the liquor trade, but he assured their Lordships that the Bill was a purely consolidation Bill. If he might cite an instance in proof of what he said, he would point out that the Bill as first introduced did contain some Amendments which gave a statutory sanction to some acts of practice which the licensing authorities had introduced. It was thought that these did amount to fresh enactments, and knowing the suspicion with which, in a Consolidation Bill, any amendment was regarded which seemed to repeal or alter the law, those amendments had been scrupulously cut out of the Bill. ["Hear, hear!"] The result was that the Bill was purely and simply a consolidating Measure, and effected no alteration in the law. It would be a great convenience to have the whole law reduced to one statute, with the different provisions expressly set forth. He might say, for instance, that the stamp duties and excise duties, formerly collected as such, were now collected as the excise licences, and a great deal of confusion had arisen in consequence of the change of name under which these various duties were collected, and that was only one out of many instances he could cite to prove the necessity for the consolidation of the law. If their Lordships would consent to the Second Reading of the Bill, he should move that it be referred to the Joint Committee for Statute Law Revision in order that any Amendment of the law might be scrupulously excluded, and the Bill made a purely consolidating Bill. ["Hear, hear!"]

Read 2ª (according to Order), and referred to the Joint Committee on Statute Law Revision Bills and Consolidation Bills; and a Message ordered to be sent to the Commons to acquaint them therewith.

FISHERIES ACT AMENDMENT BILL [H.L.].

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF TRADE (The Earl of DUDLEY) moved the Second Reading of this Bill. He explained that, with the exception of one or two verbal alterations, it was practically the same Bill which passed through the House last year without any opposition and with very little discussion. Its object was, by making illegal the sale of undersized fish, to deter trawlers and other fishermen from frequenting those grounds where small undersized fish abounded. It was, of course, impossible to prevent the catching of such fish, but it was hoped that by preventing their sale the fishermen would be deterred from going to those quarters in which they were found. The Bill gave effect to the sense of the recommendation of Lord Tweedmouth's Committee—["hear, hear!"]—and it was regarded with favour by many of the fishing bodies throughout the country.

Read 2ª (according to Order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Friday the 18th instant.

CHURCH PATRONAGE TRANSFERS BILL [H.L.].

Order of the Day for the Third Reading read, and discharged.

MERSEY CHANNELS BILL.

Amendments reported (according to Order), and Bill to be Read 3ª on Friday the 18th instant.

SUNDAY BILL [H.L.].

Second Reading (which stands appointed for the second sitting day after the Whitsuntide recess) put off to Tuesday the 29th instant.

WHITSUNTIDE RECESS.

THE PRIME MINISTER (The Marquess of SALISBURY: I beg to move "That the House at its rising do adjourn to the 18th of this month."

Motion agreed to.

House Adjourned at a Quarter before Five o'Clock, to Friday the 18th inst., a Quarter past Four o'Clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Thursday, 3rd June 1897.

COMMISSION.

Message to attend the Lords Commissioners.

The House went, and being returned,

MR. SPEAKER reported the Royal Assent to several Bills which had passed both Houses. [For list, see proceedings of House of Lords of this date.]

QUESTIONS.

SOUTH KENSINGTON MUSEUM.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucester, Forest of Dean): I beg to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether, in reference to the Report recommending the immediate rebuilding of the greater part of South Kensington Museum, and the necessity which has arisen for acquiring a house for the Hertford Collection, he will consider the wisdom of spreading the charge over a period of years, as has been done for Naval works and for Military works in the Naval Works Acts of several Sessions and in the Military Works Act of the present Session?

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bristol, W.): The matter will be considered in connection with the large expenditure which must soon be incurred for Government buildings generally, and so long as the money borrowed is repaid by terminable annuities in a reasonable period, I think there is a good deal to be said for such a policy.

MR. T. LOUGH (Islington, W.): Arising out of that Question, I wish to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether or not there is any truth in the rumour that the South Kensington Museum will be closed for a number of years?

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER: I do not think any decision has been arrived at. But it seems to me that it will probably be necessary that some of the valuable objects in that Museum shall be removed from places where they are now in danger. ["Hear, hear!"] The Government have under consideration the necessity of rebuilding —["hear, hear!"]—and I think the removal of those objects is a matter that will have to be dealt with first.

MR. LOUGH: Will an opportunity of discussing the matter be given the House?

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER: Not the question of removal.

DELIVERY OF TELEGRAMS.

MR. E. BOND (Nottingham, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether the officials of a telegraph office have a right to detain or withhold telegrams on the ground of insufficient address, when letters similarly addressed are delivered without question; and whether directions will be given that an address recognised as sufficient to insure delivery of letters shall be recognised as sufficient to insure delivery of telegrams?

THE SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. R. W. HANBURY, Preston): The Postmaster General is advised that he is under no obligation to treat telegrams and letters in a precisely similar manner as regards delivery, the conditions of delivery in the two cases being widely different. A telegram is an urgent communication, and it is of its essence that it should have prompt delivery. Consequently it is delivered by special messenger, and not by a postman on his round; and it is the universal rule that the address should contain the necessary particulars to insure delivery without difficulty, and without inquiries or references to directories. Although this is the rule, the Department does take trouble to deliver telegrams the addresses of which appear to be defective by accident and not by design, but it would be contrary to the interests of the public that it should allow its officers' time to be spent in procuring the delivery of telegrams which are systematically sent with insufficient addresses. Not only would the telegrams in question be delayed, but telegrams bearing sufficient addresses would also be delayed, and the whole character of the service would be altered for the worse. In the circumstances the Postmaster General is not prepared to give the directions which the hon. Member suggests.

QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE.

SIR FREDERICK DIXON-HARTLAND (Middlesex, Uxbridge): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he is aware that a scheme is on foot to illuminate the Dome of St. Paul's on 22nd June; and whether, in view of the great risk of fire in the Metropolitan Cathedral, he will prevent its being carried out?

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY, Lancashire, Blackpool): The Dean of St. Paul's informs me that a proposal was made to him that the Dome should be illuminated, but he had stated that he would not give his consent until he had obtained competent technical advice as to the safety of the scheme to be proposed. The hon. Baronet may rest assured, I think, that no scheme will be approved unless all risks are properly guarded against. ["Hear, hear!"]

SIR F. DIXON-HARTLAND: Then nothing will be done without the consent of the Home Office? The City authorities are very much exercised about the matter.

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY: Certainly, Sir. I have been in communication again with the Dean and Chapter on the subject, and I have every reason to believe that nothing will be done which will involve any risk. ["Hear, hear!"]

MR. F. A. CHANNING (Northampton, E.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether, in view of the fact that the Royal Victorian Order is to be conferred at the Jubilee on the surviving officers who served in the Crimea and in the Mutiny, the Secretary of State will take steps also to make some special provision for the surviving privates and non-commissioned officers who served in those campaigns, and who have hitherto been excluded from pensions by the existing regulations?

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): There is no authority for the statement as to the distribution of the Victorian Order suggested in the Question. Non-commissioned officers and men who served in the Crimean or Indian Mutiny campaigns who have not pensions under the ordinary warrants are granted special campaign pensions provided they have given ten years' service and are in necessitous circumstances. It it not proposed to go further.

*SIR JOHN COLOMB (Great Yarmouth): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty whether the only service not represented in the Jubilee Procession of 22nd June by Her Majesty's Aides-de-camp is that of the Royal Navy; whether he is aware that there is a strong feeling both in the service and in the country as to the inadequacy of representation of the Royal Navy generally at public functions; and whether he will endeavour to remedy this grievance?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. GOSCHEN, St. George's, Hanover Square): I understand that some of Her Majesty's naval and marine Aides-de-camp will be directed to ride in the Jubilee Procession. With reference to the second Question of my hon. and gallant Friend, I am always as anxious as he can be that the Navy should be adequately represented at public functions, though, as so large a proportion of the service is employed at sea, there are occasions of functions on shore in which it is difficult for them to participate in the same proportion as some other services. I should be sorry to think there was any widespread feeling of grievance, as the hon. and gallant Gentleman suggests. I am sure that every one must be anxious to see justice done to the Navy in ceremonials as well as in other respects.

SIR JOHN LENG (Dundee): I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works whether it is with his authority a notice is still exhibited within the precincts of the House that no Member unprovided with a ticket will be admitted to Westminster Hall on 22nd of June?

THE FIRST COMMISSIONER OF WORKS (Mr. AKERS-DOUGLAS, Kent, St. Augustine's): I informed the hon. Member on Tuesday last that I had given no authority to exclude Members from Westminster Hall on June 22. The notice in question was not exhibited by my instructions, and has, I understand, since been withdrawn. ["Hear, hear!"] I may add that in giving my consent to the use of Westminster Hall for luncheon on June 22 for the convenience of Members of the House and their friends I was acting on the request of a Select Committee of the House and in furtherance of what I believed, and still believe, to be the wish of a large majority of this House. [*Cheers.*] While I would not exclude from Westminster Hall any Member of the House on that day, the hon. Member must understand I certainly do not withdraw my consent to the use of the Hall for luncheon. ["Hear, hear!"]

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he can state how many seats have been allotted by the India Office to the Officers of the Army in India at present on leave in England?

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Lord GEORGE HAMILTON, Middlesex, Ealing): I stated on Monday that the seats at the disposal of the India Office for the civil and military services had been allotted to those in this country who were considered to have the best claims, without regard to the question whether they were on leave or not. It would serve no useful purpose to give an analysis of the distribution of the tickets among the various branches of the service.

MR. J. AIRD (Paddington, N.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War if he is able to state to the House the number of military bands that will play in London on Jubilee Day, and also the arrangements that will be made to insure this pleasure for the people; and how many of these bands will come from Aldershot and from Shorncliffe?

MR. BRODRICK: As far as arrangements are at present completed, 63 bands will take part in the ceremonial on Jubilee Day, exclusive of those bands joining in the service at St. Paul's. Thirty bands will come from Aldershot and three from Dover.

MR. AIRD: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he is able to give any further information as to the arrangements for the street traffic on Jubilee Day?

MR. STUART-WORTLEY (Sheffield, Hallam): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what police arrangements will be made as regards permitting the resumption of either pedestrian or vehicular traffic in the streets to be traversed by the Procession on June 22nd, after the Procession will have passed?

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY: I am not in a position to give this information at present, but it is hoped that the arrangements will be completed and the notices issued early next week. This statement will, perhaps, answer also the Question of my right hon. Friend the Member for the Hallam Division of Sheffield.

MR. F. A. CHANNING (Northampton, E.): On behalf of the hon. Member for Barnsley (Earl COMPTON), I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he will consider the desirability of arranging that either all prisoners or long-sentence prisoners will be allowed something better than prison fare on Jubilee day?

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY: No, Sir. Besides other objections I cannot see my way to give special privileges to prisoners which are not and cannot be given to the population generally who are not in prison. [*Much laughter, and* "Hear, hear!"]

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR (Forfar): I beg to ask the Chief Commissioner of Works whether he will be able to make arrangements on June 22 for Members to reach the House by water?

MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS: I have only just received the notice of this Question and have no knowledge of the matter myself, but by the courtesy of Mr. Speaker's Secretary I am able to say that the Thames Steamboat Company would agree to convey Members and their friends from Chelsea or from any intermediate pier to Speaker's steps at the rate of 2s. 6d. per passenger, provided at least 250 applications are made before June 10. Applications may be made direct to the Thames Steamboat Company, 17, Philpot Lane, E.C.

ADMIRAL FIELD (Sussex, Eastbourne): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty whether, in view of the fact that the forthcoming Jubilee Procession is to be composed in part of Military and Police contingents from every Colony and Dependency of the Crown, the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty will make further representations so that the sea power of the Empire may find its proper place in the Procession, either in the form of a Naval field battery with a covering party of Marines or of a rocket brigade; and whether, if none of these suggestions can be adopted and it is decided that the Royal Navy shall have no place in the Imperial Procession, the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty will order that the seamen of the Fleet shall remain at their respective ports and not be brought up to assist in keeping the streets, but that their services shall be confined to furnishing guards of honour where required?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY: I am glad to say I am now in a position to inform my hon. and gallant Friend that it has been settled that naval field guns with their crews will form part of the Jubilee Procession on the 22nd inst. [*Cheers.*] Contingents of Bluejackets and Marines will be brought up from the ports, not because their services are required to keep order in the streets, but because the Board of Admiralty have felt that their presence, posted as they will be in considerable detachments in conspicuous parts of the route, would be satisfactory both to the public and to the naval service. [*Cheers.*]

*SIR J. COLOMB asked whether any detachments of the Royal Marine Artillery, with their guns, would also take part in the Procession?

ADMIRAL FIELD asked the First Lord of the Admiralty whether there would be a covering party of Marines?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY: It has only just been settled that naval guns are to appear; where, and in what form, will be decided afterwards. The difficulty has been that no detachments of infantry of any kind are to be in the Procession. It was to be confined to mounted troops of the line, but the concession has now been made in favour of the Navy, and that there should be field guns. Whether they are to be manned by Marines or Bluejackets are details which have not yet been settled.

MR. D. MACALEESE (Monaghan, N.): On behalf of the hon. Member for North Donegal (Mr. T. B. CURRAN), I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that Mr. L. MacMillan, who has spent several years in working up a coffee and dining room business at 114, Borough Road, is to be ejected, in order that his landlord may let the premises for the Procession of 22nd June; and whether, seeing that this is only one case among many others of a similar character, the Government will see their way to bring in a Bill to prevent such grave injustices?

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY: My attention has been called to MacMillan's case. The landlord appears to have offered him certain terms on which he might be permitted to remain in possession, and when these were declined to have taken proceedings in the High Court. The Master by whom the order for recovery was made evidently considered that there was no defence; and MacMillan did not appeal, as he might have done to the Judge. Very few cases of this kind have been brought to my notice; and though it may be there has been hardship in one or two, it would not be practicable, I am afraid, to introduce special legislation to meet them.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War if, to prevent disappointment, the Volunteer corps who have been invited to send from the provinces detachments of men to London on 22nd June have been given clearly to understand that they will necessarily be massed several deep in the appointed places, in consequence of the large numbers of troops to be engaged, and will have to make their own arrangements for food and other accommodation, and that this will entail some difficulty, having regard to the probable augmentation of the London population of five millions by half as many again?

MR. BRODRICK: The Volunteers attending the Jubilee ceremonial will have to be messed at definite stations, as over 40,000 troops will in all be assembled in London. Arrangements are in progress to assist Volunteer corps in providing themselves with the necessary refreshments on that day. These arrangements when completed will be duly notified.

MR. G. C. T. BARTLEY (Islington, N.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether a holiday, with pay, will be given on Jubilee Day to all persons employed in the public service, though they may not be technically "public servants," such as mechanics, labourers, and others employed at Her Majesty's prisons, and who in most cases have to take a compulsory holiday?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): I must ask the hon. Member to address his Question to the Home Secretary.

BRIGADE OF GUARDS.

SIR A. ACLAND HOOD (Somerset, Wellington): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War if he could state to the House to what extent each of the three regiments of Foot Guards is now above or below the new establishment of 1897-8; to what extent each of the three battalions of the Grenadier Guards is now above or below the new establishment of 1897-8; and how many men of the Grenadier Guards have extended their services with the colours on receipt of bounty, or rejoined the colours from the Reserve under Army Order 59, of 1897?

MR. BRODRICK: The new establishments of Guards about to be issued, including depôts, all ranks except officers, for 1897-98, amount to 6,416, being an increase of 728 over the establishments of last year. When the 1st Battalion of Grenadier Guards embarks for Gibraltar in October, its establishment will be further increased by 177 rank and file, making in all an increased establishment of 905. Towards this 106 men have been obtained up to May 31. There remain, therefore, 799 to obtain in the course of the present financial year. The 1st Battalion Grenadiers will require 14 more men on embarkation to complete their Gibraltar establishment. The 2nd Battalion wants 81 men to complete establishment, the 3rd 72, and the Depôt and Regimental Staff 72. The Grenadier Guards, consequently, will require 239 men before April next to complete their establishment. The Coldstreams will require 276 to complete their establishment, including the proportion of the new battalions to be raised. The Scots Guards will require 284 to complete their establishment, including the proportion of the new battalions to be raised. No men have yet extended their service under the new conditions. But it should be noted that the order giving a bounty of £2 to men extending was limited to men whose service happened to expire between May 1 and October 1, and was only promulgated on May 1. The notices to Reservists (326) of the Grenadier Guards were not posted till May 25, and of these 11 have accepted up to yesterday. The increased establishments of the Guards began to take effect on April 1. In the month of May 149 Guards recruits were taken, against 78 in the preceding year, although the Army generally is considerably short of strength.

SIR A. ACLAND HOOD: Arising out of that answer, may I ask the right hon. Gentleman whether men are now being taken at a very reduced standard, and whether a large number of them are taken below that reduced standard?

MR. BRODRICK: The standard has been reduced to 5ft. 8in. for recruits of over 20 years of age, and to 5ft. 7in. for recruits under 20. No men have been taken under the latter standard.

SIR A. ACLAND HOOD: Am I to understand that the Grenadier Guards only require 14 men to complete their establishment?

MR. BRODRICK: That is so.

ILLEGAL TRAWLING (SCOTTISH WATERS).

MR. J. G. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate, as representing the Secretary for Scotland (1) whether his attention has been called to the fact that out of the 20 convictions obtained in 1896 against persons engaged in illegal trawling in Scottish waters four of these convictions apply to William Sims, master of the *Sunray*, who was fined in the aggregate £285; two convictions apply to Frederick Powderall, master of the *Pansy*, who was fined in the aggregate £180; and two convictions apply to Thomas Lauder, master of the *Amy Gertrude*, who was fined in the aggregate £125; (2) will he state whether any of these men elected to go to prison rather than pay the fine; and (3) in view of the fact that repetition of offences by the same offender indicates an indifference to fines on the part of persons engaged in illegal trawling, will he take care that when prosecutions are undertaken the attention of the Court is prominently called to any cases of previous convictions, and that in such cases efforts be made to procure a confiscation of gear in addition to the fine?

*THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire): The facts set forth in the first paragraph of the hon. Member's Question are correctly stated. Sims on three occasions and Powderall on one occasion elected to go to prison. When known, the attention of the Procurator Fiscal is called to previous convictions, and in every instance where such a course can be followed, the trawling gear belonging to convicted trawlers has been seized and sold.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Adcate (1) if he will state the names of the six trawling skippers, with name of vessel, who during the year 1896 elected to go to prison for the whole period of their sentence rather than pay the fines inflicted for trawling in prohibited waters; and (2) in view of the indifference with which masters of vessels engaged in trawling in prohibited waters treat the penalties now imposed, will he consider the expediency of taking such steps as will admit of deterrent penalties being inflicted on the owner of such vessels as well as on the master.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE: I am informed by the Fishery Board that the names of the trawling skippers who remained in prison for the whole period of their sentences in 1896, are William Price, master of the *Strathspey*, A 751; Isaac Jackson, master of the *St. Fotin*, A 392; Frederick Powderall, master of the *Commodore*, G.N. 31; and William Sims, master of the *Sunray*, A 669. As regards the second part of the Question, I must refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave him to a similar Question on the 21st February last.

MUSSEL BEDS (CLYDE).

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate, as representing the Secretary for Scotland, whether the Fishery Board has yet been able to arrange with the Board of Trade the terms of the lease of the valuable and extensive mussel beds in the Clyde Estuary, off Port Glasgow; and whether, in view of the urgent demand for mussels by persons engaged in the fishing industry, care will be taken that no time is lost in prosecuting the culture of the beds?

*THE LORD ADVOCATE: The answer to the hon. Member's Question is in the affirmative.

IRISH LAND COMMISSION.

MR. S. YOUNG (Cavan, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland (1) whether he is aware that in many parts of County Down and elsewhere the landlord's agent accompanies on the same car the Sub-Commissioners to the scene of their examination of farms on which fair rents are to be fixed; and (2) whether, considering the dissatisfaction which this practice creates in the minds of the tenants, he will take steps to secure that this custom be discontinued?

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): I have no knowledge of the matter referred to in the first paragraph, nor have the Land Commissioners. The Assistant Commissioners are required to avoid doing anything which might suggest partiality.

MR. YOUNG: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that frequent applications, without effect, have been made to the Land Commission Court by the Bailieboro' Board of Guardians for confirming orders for the payment of compensation to occupiers of farms for plots taken in July 1896 for labourers cottages; and whether the said Board of Guardians have any remedy for such delay?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: The Orders referred to were sealed on the 25th May last by the Land Commissioners, and sent to the Solicitor for the Sanitary Authority on the same date.

CAPTAIN DONELAN (Cork, E.): On behalf of the hon. Member for South Galway (Mr. D. SHEEHY), I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that a number of tenants on the Clanricarde and Daly Estates entered their cases in the Land Courts in February last; whether the Commissioners inspected the lands since; and when is it contemplated to hear and decide the cases?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: At the present date there are but 26 cases from the estate of the Marquess of Clanricarde which have not been listed for hearing. The estate referred to as the "Daly Estate" cannot be identified without some further information, as there are five different landlords of the name of Daly, from whose estates in Galway applications have been received. A Sub-Commission has been engaged until recently in disposing of cases from the Portumna and Loughrea Unions, but no date has yet been fixed for the next Sub-Commission to take up cases from these districts.

MYNYDD-Y-GWAIR COMMON.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS (Denbighshire, W.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture (1) whether his attention has been called to the position of Mynydd-y-Gwair Common in Glamorganshire; (2) whether he is aware that the Swansea Urban Sanitary Authority agreed to pay the sum of £100 for the extinguishment of commonable or other rights in the common in question on condition that the money should be expended for the benefit of the commoners interested; (3) whether it is a fact that, in accordance with the provisions of the Commonable Rights Compensation Act 1882, an inquiry was held in June 1896, and a decision arrived at to construct the roads across the common, but that the Board of Agriculture have declined to make an order on the ground that the committee to whom the £100 was paid refuse to reveal the amount of interest accrued on the amount; and (4) whether, in view of the inability of the commoners to take legal proceedings, he will reconsider the decision of his Department?

*THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. WALTER LONG, Liverpool, West Derby): The reply to the first two paragraphs of the Question is in the affirmative. With regard to the third and fourth, I would say that no inquiry has been held, nor have we as yet declined to make an Order in the matter. A meeting of the persons interested in the money in question was convened in June last, but the validity of the resolutions then arrived at is contested, and we are now considering what further steps, if any, it is possible for us to take.

BALTIMORE (IRELAND).

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware of the great inconvenience and loss to the fishing industry at Baltimore for want of a pier at deep water and the corresponding extension of the railway so that fish could be transhipped from the fishing boats to the railway waggons; and that some shippers of fish prefer to send their cargoes to Liverpool by sea to the cost and inconvenience of getting them to the railway under present conditions; whether the original intention was to run the railway line to a deep water pier; and whether the Government will now provide the necessary money to have this work carried out?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: The extension of the railway to deep water was not included in the scheme submitted by the promoting company, or contemplated in the Statutory Report thereon by the Board of Works. The railway terminates in accordance with the original scheme of the promoters. I have no information that some shippers of fish prefer to send their cargoes to Liverpool by sea, direct, as stated; and with regard to the construction of a deep water pier, whilst it is generally admitted that such a work would prove a stimulus to the fishing industry, I can only repeat what I have already stated, that until the Harbour Board and the railway company come to an understanding with the Congested Districts Board, the question of a contribution by means of a grant in aid cannot be again considered.

TELEGRAPH FACILITIES (CO. KILKENNY).

Mr. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he is aware that there is great need for a telegraph office at Kilmaganny, county Kilkenny, which has a population of about 400, several important business establishments, Petty Sessions Court, Catholic and Protestant churches, dispensary, and constabulary barracks, and is situate in an important district with no telegraph office nearer than four miles distant; and whether he will take steps to establish a telegraph office at Kilmaganny?

Mr. HANBURY: The question of extending the telegraphs to Kilmaganny has been carefully inquired into, but the Postmaster General regrets that he is not in a position to establish a telegraph office there unless a guarantee be furnished. The Postmaster General will communicate with the hon. Member on the subject.

POSTAL SERVICE (NOTTINGHAM).

Mr. J. H. YOXALL (Nottingham, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, if there is any foundation for the statement that in the postal service at Nottingham lads from 14 to 16 years of age are employed between 7 p.m. and 10 p.m., six days a week, for a weekly wage of 3s. or at the rate of 2d. per hour?

Mr. HANBURY: The statement is not accurate. Six telegraph messengers over 16 years of age who are engaged between three and four hours a day on their usual duties are employed from 7 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. to assist in the last town delivery of letters. They earn on an average 7s. 6d. a week, and they are awaiting appointment as town postmen. The arrangement under which they take part in the delivery of letters is of advantage to the lads, as it puts them in training for the appointments to which they are looking forward.

ARMY SCHOOLMASTERS.

Mr. YOXALL: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War if it is the case that, whilst master gunners in the Artillery, conductors in the Army Ordnance Corps, and staff sergeant-majors of the Army Service Corps may rise, after certain periods of satisfactory service, from the lowest to the highest grade of warrant officer, an Army schoolmaster must remain in the lowest or fourth class of warrant officers so long as he is a schoolmaster; and, if so, does he propose to maintain this disability?

Mr. BRODRICK: The classes into which warrant officers are divided must depend on the relative importance of the duties and responsibilities of the appointments held. However valuable may be the services of an Army schoolmaster, it is not possible to regard his functions as equal in importance to those of the warrant officers cited in the Question, who have either high executive duties or important charges of materiel. Schoolmasters are eligible for and often obtain commissioned rank as Inspectors of Schools.

SCOTTISH FISHERY BOARD.

Mr. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate, as representing the Secretary for Scotland, whether, in view of the statment contained in the Fifteenth Annual Report of the Fishery Board for Scotland, that the practice of concealing or obliterating letters and numbers, and trawling without lights, has become very common with trawlers engaged in fishing in prescribed waters, and causes great difficulty in identifying trawlers so engaged, he will consider the expediency of taking such steps as will admit of the penalties for the concealment of numbers and fishing without lights being rendered of a more severe and deterrent nature than now imposed?

*__The LORD ADVOCATE__: I am informed by the Fishery Board that the penalty for concealing letters and numbers is fixed by the Additional Regulations under Part 2 of the Sea Fisheries Act, 1868 (31 and 32 Victoria, chap. 45), which Regulations were approved by Her Majesty in Council on 26th February, 1880. The regulations in regard to lights are issued under the Acts relating to Merchant Shipping. But I must point out that these are matters falling within the jurisdiction of the Board of Trade.

Mr. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate, having regard to the statement in the Fifteenth Annual Report of the Fishery Board for Scotland, that in the year 1896 there were four cases in which the gear of persons engaged in illegal trawling was confiscated, will he state in each case the name of the trawler so engaged, as well as the name of the master and owner, and whether a fine was imposed in each case?

*The LORD ADVOCATE: I am informed by the Fishery Board that the names of the trawlers whose gear was confiscated in 1896 were the *Sunray*, A. 669, owners Johnstone and Sherritt, Aberdeen, master, William Sims; *Bosphorus*, S.S.S. 278, owner J. Wilson, North Shields, master Joseph Ballard; and *Commodore*, G.N. 31, owner John McPherson, Arbroath, master Frederick Powderall. The gear of the last named trawler was seized on two occasions. In each of the cases referred to fines were imposed.

BICYCLE LIGHTS.

Mr. BERESFORD MELVILLE (Stockport): I beg to ask the Home Secretary whether his attention has been called to a verdict of manslaughter given in the case of a bicyclist who was killed at Stockport by a cart driven at night without lights; and whether he will be prepared to introduce a Bill to enforce the carrying of lights, and prevent similar accidents in the future?

Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY: My attention has not been called to this case otherwise than by the hon. Member's Question. I am afraid I cannot undertake to introduce a Bill as suggested by him; but a Bill dealing with the subject is already before the House and has obtained a Second Reading, and under the existing law Borough and County Councils have ample powers of dealing with the matter by means of bye-laws, powers which in many cases have been exercised.

*Mr. PERCY THORNTON (Clapham) asked whether it was not the fact that there was no lights bye-law at Stockport, although one existed where the accident occurred, and whether the right hon. Gentleman would not take some measures to enforce uniformity in the carrying of lights?

Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY said that had the cart at Stockport carried a light it was very probable the accident would not have happened. He understood his hon. Friend desired general legislation on the subject. The hon. Gentleman's own Bill had been read a Second time and he must leave the House to deal with it.

MILITARY PRISONS (CORPORAL PUNISHMENT).

Mr. JOSEPH A. PEASE (Northumberland, Tyneside): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War if he could state how many, if any, prisoners in the Military prisons of the United Kingdom or Colonies have received corporal punishment on more than one occasion during the last six years?

Mr. BRODRICK: The Returns rendered do not distinguish the cases in which corporal punishment has been inflicted more than once on the same prisoner, but the information can be called for from the several prisons if the hon. Member desires it.

CIVIL PRISONS (CORPORAL PUNISHMENT).

Mr. JOSEPH A. PEASE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he could state how many prisoners in the local prisons and convict establishments of the United Kingdom have received corporal punishment on more than one occasion during the past six years; and if there are any who have received such punishment on more than two occasions during the same period?

Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY: The Governors of prisons have been requested to supply this information, but it will be impossible to answer the Question before the holidays.

ST. COLUMBA'S CHURCH SCHOOLS, KINGSLAND ROAD.

Mr. THOMAS OWEN (Cornwall, Launceston): I beg to ask the Vice President of the Committee of Council on Education if his attention has been called to the serious complaints, made by parents before the stipendiary magistrate at Worship Street last Saturday, of children attending St. Columba's Church Schools, Kingsland Road, being obliged to go in procession to church, bow at the altar, etc., contrary to the wishes of the parents, and the allegation in one instance that the children were caned if they did not go; and, if so, if he will take steps to insure the due observance of the conscience clause in the school?

THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL (Sir J. GORST, Cambridge University): The attention of the Committee of Council was drawn to this matter about a month ago, and they have satisfied themselves by very careful inquiry that no child is obliged to attend the church, or is punished for not doing so. The managers have, however, been instructed to enter on the Time Table the day and hour of the services to which they propose to take children.

TELEGRAPH SERVICE (SCOTLAND).

SIR JOHN LENG: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether the telegraph service in Scotland at the country post offices on the 22nd June will, as on Sundays, be limited to one hour, so that the telegraphists may not be detained the whole day in their respective offices?

MR. HANBURY: Having the whole of the United Kingdom in view, I stated on the 13th ultimo, in answer to a Question of the hon. Member for Devonport, that the arrangements would be the same throughout the United Kingdom as on ordinary Bank Holidays, and the telegraph offices would, as a rule, be kept open as on ordinary days to meet the convenience of the public, but that the less important offices in towns would be closed as far as possible. The Postmaster General does not think he can make any exception in the case of Scotland.

VOLUNTARY SCHOOL ACT 1897.

SIR JOHN BRUNNER (Cheshire, Northwich): I beg to ask the Vice President of the Committee of Council on Education whether grants payable under the Voluntary Schools Act 1897, may be used for building purposes?

SIR J. GORST: No, Sir.

CATTLE FOOD.

MR. C. T. GILES (Cambridge, Wisbech): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture whether he is aware that imported barley meal used as food for cattle often contains a large quantity of maize meal, a much cheaper article; and whether he has considered if anything can be done to prevent the purchaser being thus prejudiced?

*MR. LONG: No complaint has hitherto reached me as to the adulteration of barley meal in the manner indicated, but I should presume that a purchaser would have no difficulty in obtaining redress by means of civil proceedings for any loss which he might sustain. Without more precise information before me, I am afraid that I am unable to assist my hon. Friend, but I should be glad to receive and to consider any statement of the facts with which he may be able to supply me.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ACTS.

MR. W. R. BOUSFIELD (Hackney, N.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he can state the results, so far, of the inquiries which have been made of local authorities in reference to the recommendations contained in the Report upon the Weights and Measures Acts which was submitted last year; and whether, having regard to those results and to the fact that a deputation from the County Councils Association and the Association of Municipal Corporations waited upon him, urging the desirability of securing uniformity of administration, he will consent to appoint a Departmental Committee of the Board of Trade to consider the subject?

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. C. T. RITCHIE, Croydon): Since I replied to a Question by the hon. and learned Member on the 19th February, only ten more replies have been received from local authorities. Some of the larger and more important of these bodies have not responded at present, and I am not yet in a position to decide upon future action.

AIRDRIE VOLUNTEERS.

Mr. JOHN WILSON (Falkirk Burghs): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War if he has received and perused the statement of the officers of the disbanded 5th Volunteer Battalion Scottish Rifles (Airdrie Volunteers); and if he will recommend an inquiry into the whole facts of the case?

Mr. BRODRICK: The statement forwarded by my hon. Friend has been duly received at the War Office. The decision to disband the 5th Volunteer Battalion Scottish Rifles was made after careful consideration by the military authorities of the condition of the battalion, and the Secretary of State is satisfied that no good end would be attained by reopening the question.

Mr. J. WILSON (Falkirk Burghs) said he would take another opportunity of exposing this business.

INDIAN FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Mr. SAMUEL SMITH (Flintshire): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether the usual Memorandum explanatory of the Indian Financial Statement, which has already been received from Calcutta, can be presented to Parliament immediately after the Recess, so that Members may be better prepared to deal with that statement when brought before the House for its adoption?

Lord GEORGE HAMILTON: The explanatory Memorandum is in the hands of the printers; but some of the information which I wish to include in it was only received by the last mail from India, and I fear that it cannot be distributed to Members for some time yet.

POST OFFFICE (WESTON-SUPER-MARE).

Mr. H. G. JOLLIFFE (Somerset, Wells): I beg to ask the Secretary to th Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he is aware that a site for a new post office at Weston-super-Mare was acquired by Government several years ago, that new accommodation is urgently required, and when the building is likely to be commenced?

Mr. HANBURY: A site for a new post office at Weston-super-Mare was purchased in 1892, and the building plans are still under consideration. It has been necessary to revise them more than once, as the expense involved was considered to be too great. The Postmaster General regrets that he is not in a position to say when the building will be commenced; but the present office was temporarily enlarged last year, so as to mitigate the need for the new accommodation.

GIANTS' CAUSEWAY.

General McCALMONT (Antrim, N.): I beg to ask the Attorney General for Ireland whether an appeal has been lodged against the recent decision of the Vice Chancellor in the Giants' Causeway case; and whether in view of the difficulty on the part of the defendants of raising further funds for the defence of public rights, he will advise the Treasury to provide the money required.

*The ATTORNEY GENERAL for IRELAND (Mr. J. Atkinson, Londonderry, N.): I have been informed that an appeal is contemplated, but I am not aware whether it has been lodged. There is no precedent for the Treasury paying the costs of the private defendants in such a case as this.

CRETE.

Mr. JOHN DILLON (Mayo, E.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs why the Reports of the Admirals on Cretan affairs dealing with the period from 12th February to 4th May have been published, while the Papers relating to the previous period, from 5th December to 12th February, including those relating to the burning of Canea, and the instructions to the Admirals, are still held back.

The UNDER SECRETARY of STATE for FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Mr. G. Curzon, Lancashire, Southport): The hon. Member will see on reference to the Cretan Blue-book (Turkey, No. 8, 1897) that it contains papers, not, as he says, only till December 5, but down to the end of the year, the last Dispatch published in it having been received on December 28. I explained to the hon. Member on Monday that the Papers from that date onward are in course of preparation, and will shortly be in the hands of the House. But, as the Blue-book is a large one, and as we are anxious to bring it up to the latest possible date, it was decided to lay the reports of the Admiral in the interval.

Sir E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT (Sheffield, Ecclesall) asked whether the next batch of papers published would include a report as to the number of Mussulmans, including women and children, who had been murdered by the Cretan insurgents during the present year.

Mr. CURZON said the Government had received no such Report.

Mr. J. C. FLYNN (Cork, N.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, in reference to the raid made by armed Mussulmans on the village of Ghalifa, resulting in the slaughter of several Christians, including women, whether the Governor of Candia has furnished any explanation to the representatives of the Great Powers concerning the alleged connivance of the outposts, who had been specially instructed to prevent such movements; and what steps are being taken to prevent a recurrence of these raids from a town in possession of the Great Powers?

Mr. JOHN DILLON: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the Governor of Candia, in consequence of the protests of the Consuls, caused the leaders of the Mahommedan expedition which had plundered the Christian village of Kalivia to be arrested; whether on Monday morning a large crowd of Mahommedans surrounded the Konak demanding the release of the prisoners; and whether the prisoners have been released?

Mr. CURZON: The only official information that we have received, beyond that which was given in my reply on the 1st inst., is contained in a telegram from Sir A. Biliotti, which arrived this afternoon to the effect that on June 1 upwards of 1,000 Mussulmans made a pacific demonstration at Candia to obtain the liberation of their co-religionists who were suspected of having attacked the Ghalifa Christians; that the crowd was dispersed by the gendarmerie and troops; but that the prisoners were released.

Mr. DILLON: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs who is responsible at present for the maintenance of law and order in the town of Candia?

Mr. CURZON: The Turkish Governor is responsible for the maintenance of order in the town of Candia. But it must be considered that he is under the direction of the Admirals who represent the Powers, and have control of the European occupying force.

EGYPT.

Mr. DILLON: I beg to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the detailed Report on the expenditure of the grant in aid to Egypt will be circulated?

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER: The details of the expenditure of the grant in aid to Egypt in respect of the Dongola Expedition have already been circulated. They appear on Page 2 of Lord Cromer's Report on Egypt, which was presented in February. I expect a further Report in due course, with respect to the remainder of the grant.

CIVIL SERVICE (SECOND DIVISION CLERKS).

*Mr. HENRY KIMBER (Wandsworth): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether the salaries paid to Second Division clerks are for a daily attendance of seven hours; and whether it is the practice of the Treasury to sanction the payment of additional remuneration when these officers are required to work periodic overtime?

Mr. HANBURY: The answer to both Questions is "Yes."

*Mr. KIMBER asked what was the scale of remuneration for overtime?

Mr. HANBURY thought it was 1s. 6d. per hour.

MARYBOROUGH PRISON (PATRICK CONNEELY).

Mr. MICHAEL DAVITT (Mayo, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland (1) whether he is aware that one Patrick Connerly, or Connolly, a convict in Maryborough Prison, undergoing a long sentence for manslaughter, was returned for trial in April 1882; that, through remands and adjournments, the trial did not take place until July 1883; and that, of the two other prisoners who were tried with Connolly on the same charge, one of them, named Fon, died a lunatic in Richmond Asylum some years ago, and the other, named Diskin, was discharged last year on the plea of ill-health and died shortly afterwards; and (2) whether, in view of all these facts, he will recommend that the convict Connelly shall be allowed in the working out of his sentence the benefit of the 15 months' imprisonment which he underwent while awaiting trial, and the sentence be reduced accordingly?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: Patrick Conneely is the name of the convict referred to. Fox died in Dundrum Criminal Lunatic Asylum in July 1889. I have no information that Diskin died shortly after his release on licence in 1895. Otherwise the statements in the first paragraph are correct. An application was recently received from Conneely to be allowed the benefit of the period during which he awaited his trial, and it was decided that there was no ground for a special remission of sentence in his case.

MR. DAVITT: May I ask whether it is the custom in this country to make allowance in the working out of a sentence for the time the prisoner is kept awaiting his trial?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I presume all the circumstances were before the Judge.

WORKMEN (COMPENSATION FOR ACCIDENTS) BILL.

MR. J. M. MACLEAN (Cardiff): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will lay upon the Table the calculations on which he relied to show that the proportion of compensation to be paid in the coal trade under the Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill would certainly not exceed 1 per cent. of the wages paid?

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY: Sir, the calculations I gave were Departmental and private calculations based on official and other figures which are as much open to hon. Members as myself, and I do not propose to lay them on the Table.

MR. MACLEAN asked whether the right hon. Gentleman would invite the representatives of the coal trade in South Wales to meet him and discuss the question, so that they might see how the Bill bore upon them?

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY said he was afraid that would involve tremendous discussion. He was quite willing to hear what those gentlemen had to say, but he might state that he had studied with the greatest care the statistics which had been laid before him, and to promise to discuss the whole matter was more than he could undertake.

ESTATE DUTY.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: I beg to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether it was the practice of the Inland Revenue Department, previous to the passing of the Finance Act 1894, to charge probate duty on personal property falling to the Crown by default of next of kin; (2) whether it is now the practice to charge estate duty on both real and personal property which falls to the Crown by default either of heirs or of next of kin; (3) whether there is any instance of departure from this practice in the case either of probate duty or of estate duty; and (4) whether any question has arisen; and, if so, how, as to the lawfulness of the practice?

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER: So far as England is concerned, the answer to the first two Questions is in the affirmative, and I am not aware of any instance in which probate duty has not been paid on personal property falling to the Crown by default of next of kin. A question arose after the passing of the Act of 1894 as to the legality of charging estate duty in these cases, especially upon real estate, which upon a reference to the Law Officers was decided by them in the affirmative a few months ago. Accordingly, estate duty has been, or will be, paid in all cases in which property, real or personal, has fallen or may fall to the Crown in England. In Scotland the practice has been somewhat different, as the Crown can there collect an estate without administration, and so did not before 1894 pay probate duty (which was payable upon the grant of letters of administration or confirmation). The case was, however, altered by the Act of 1894 (as interpreted by the Law Officers), which made estate duty payable irrespective of letters of administration or confirmation, and since the end of last year the practice in Scotch cases has been assimilated to that in English.

KILKENNY PETTY SESSIONS.

Mr. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I beg to ask the Attorney General for Ireland whether his attention has been directed to a case tried at Grace's Old Castle (Kilkenny) Petty Sessions, before Mr. Considine, R.M., on the 22nd ult., in which it was proved that a water bailiff, named Bannon, had forcibly seized, assaulted with a cane sword, and searched the pockets of a boy named Patrick Comerford, and took from him some minnow alleging that they were salmon fry; whether water bailiffs are legally empowered to arrest and search the pockets of persons whom they know and could identify and prosecute if necessary; and whether the Crown can and will interfere either to prosecute Bannon or order a re-hearing of the charges?

Mr. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been drawn to a case tried in Kilkenny Petty Sessions on the 22nd ultimo, in which it was proved that a water bailiff named Joseph Bannon, in the employ of the Irish Fishery Conservators, forcibly took from a boy named Patrick Comerford, whom he found fishing, some minnow which Bannon alleged was salmon fry; whether he is aware that it was sworn by Bannon that the Conservators only decided a few days before this trial that minnow is not salmon fry; and whether the Irish Fishery Conservators intend to retain Bannon in their employment?

*The ATTORNEY GENERAL for IRELAND: In answer to this and the next Question on the Paper, I beg to say that my attention has been called to the case mentioned, in which there was a direct conflict of testimony between the parties as to the circumstances and nature of the assaults alleged to have been committed by each of the parties on the other. The magistrates dismissed both cases, holding that in point of law the Statute 54 and 55 Vic., s. 20, sec. 6 did not authorise the water bailiff to search the person of Comerford, who is a man of 24 years of age. It is open to both parties to appeal from these decisions, when the magistrates' ruling can be revised. It also appears from the report furnished to me that Comerford threatens to take civil proceedings against Bannon for the assault. Under these circumstances it would not be proper for me to give an opinion on the legal point involved. The Crown have no power to order a re-hearing of the charges made on both sides, and it does not appear to be a fit case in which to institute a criminal prosecution at the suit of the Crown.

PARISH COUNCILS (SCOTLAND).

Mr. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he is now in a position to fix a date for the introduction of the Bill placing parish councils in Scotland on the same footing as similar councils in England in regard to guarantees?

Mr. HANBURY: I hope to introduce the Bill immediately after Whitsuntide.

COVENT GARDEN MARKET.

Mr. HENNIKER HEATON (Canterbury): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General (1), whether he is aware that for many years past merchants and traders in Covent Garden Market were in the habit of sending to the country to their customers who were producers, packets of printed labels for clearly directing their agricultural produce, which were sent under the book post rate, no objection being raised by the postal authorities until two months ago; (2) will he explain why, without warning, the postal authorities have stopped these packages, altogether, under the book post rate, and will only admit them under the letter rate, so that what formerly was sent for ½d. now costs 1½d.; and (3) whether, considering the burthened condition of the farmers and fruit growers, he will revert to the old rule, and allow these labels, which are absolutely valueless, to go at book post rate?

Mr. HANBURY: The answer to the first paragraph of the hon. Member's Question is in the affirmative. The packets were excluded from transmission by book post under the Inland Post Amendment Warrant, 1897, which provides that the expression "book packet" shall not include any article which, though made of paper and bearing words in writing or printing, is substantially of the nature of stationery or merchandise. The Warrant was laid on the Table of the House on the 29th of January last, and notice of its publication was given in the *Gazette* of the 15th of the same month. The Postmaster General considers that the grievance will be removed by the regulations which come into force on the 22nd instant, as, though it will still be impossible to send a 2 oz. packet by book post for ½d., it will be possible to send a 4 oz. packet for 1d. by letter post.

ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY.

CAPTAIN DONELAN: On behalf of the hon. Member for South Galway (Mr. SHEEHY), I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland (1) on what grounds was Sergeant O'Dowd compelled to retire from the police force on a reduced pension before his time; and (2) will he state by whose authority Inspector Fleming is drawing an allowance of £50 per annum as Divisional County Inspector one year longer than the maximum period of three years?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: No pensioner named Sergeant O'Dowd is on the lists of pensioners from the Royal Irish Constabulary or Dublin Metropolitan Police. There is no time limit, as suggested, to the payment of the annual allowance referred to in the second paragraph.

TOKAT MASSACRE.

MR. FLYNN: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the Foreign Office has yet received information respecting the letter addressed by Sir Philip Currie to Tewfik Pasha in regard to the recent massacre of Armenians at Tokat; whether complaint was made as to the inactivity of the tribunal at Tokat appointed to try the Mussulmans implicated in the massacre; and what steps have been taken by the representatives of the Powers to secure the punishment of those already tried and found guilty of complicity in the affair?

MR. CURZON: Her Majesty's Ambassador telegraphs that he is addressing representations to the Turkish Government daily with regard to the non-confirmation of the sentences passed by the Commission on the offenders at Tokat and the acquittal of the officials, and that his colleagues, whom he has acquainted with the telegrams received from Her Majesty's Consul, have also made representations to the Porte. The Council of Ministers have had the matter under their consideration, but so far no decision has been arrived at.

SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT asked if the right hon. Gentleman could tell the House what the sentences were?

MR. CURZON: I cannot without reference, because there were a great many sentences, each differing from the other. If my hon. Friend desires the information I shall be glad to give it to him.

MINES INSPECTOR (SOUTH WALES).

MR. DAVID THOMAS (Merthyr Tydvil): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will state why the Inspector of Mines for South Wales has discontinued giving in his annual Reports the number of inspections made (above and under ground) and inquests attended during the course of the year by himself and his assistant inspectors; and if he is aware that this information was of interest to those engaged in colliery operations in the district?

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY: I do not know why Mr. Robson has omitted this information from his last Report. He is under no obligation to give it, but I have no doubt he will be willing to do so if it is of interest to those in his district.

POST OFFICE GUIDE.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he is aware that, although there are two places named Tarbert in Scotland, it is equally true that there are two places named Newport in England; and that, in the case of these latter places, they are respectively and correctly described in the list of money order and telegraph offices in the Post Office Guide as Newport (Mon.) and Newport (Isle of Wight); and whether, seeing that Tarbert (Harris) is the name of a money order and telegraph office, will he explain why it cannot be so described at page 205 of the Post Office Guide, especially having regard to the fact that, in describing Harris as a money order and telegraph office at page 121, the Post Office is misleading the public, Harris being merely the name of a district?

MR. HANBURY: Yes, Sir; the Postmaster General is aware, and he thinks the hon. Member's wishes can be met in the next edition of the Post Office Guide. The office at Tarbert (Harris) shall there be fully described as a money order and telegraph office both under the name Harris and under the name Tarbert.

JUDICIAL TRUSTEES ACT 1896.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: I beg to ask the Attorney General whether the rules of procedure under the Judicial Trustees Act 1896, have been finally approved; and, in such case, if he will take steps to bring to the notice of the legal profession and the public the opportunity given by the Act for any person interested in a trust, either as settlor, trustee, or beneficiary, to obtain the appointment of a judicial trustee, who at trifling cost will discharge his duties under the supervision of the Court?

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Sir RICHARD WEBSTER, Isle of Wight): I am informed that the rules under the Judicial Trustees Act are almost ready for issue. The object has been, as far as possible, to establish a system which shall not be costly, but it is difficult to utilise the supervision of the Court without expense.

BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

MR. JOSEPH A. PEASE: I beg to ask the Attorney General whether the British Administrator on the mainland strip of the British East African Protectorate acts legally when he, in accordance with the discretionary powers recently given him by Her Majesty's Government, restores to their previous masters slaves who have run away to these British administered dominions?

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: The statement of facts in the hon. Member's Question is not sufficient to enable me to express an opinion, but if he will communicate with me I will go into the matter.

IRISH JUDICIARY.

SIR J. COLOMB: On behalf of the hon. Member for Dublin University (Mr. EDWARD CARSON), I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury how many Judgeships are now vacant in Ireland; and whether the Government intend to bring in a Bill this Session dealing with all or any of such vacancies?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: In answer to my hon. Friend, I have to say that there are now three Judgeships vacant in Ireland, and it is the intention of the Government to introduce a Bill shortly after Whitsuntide dealing with the matter.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN asked what was to become of the money which had been saved by reason of the vacancies?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: In accordance with a pledge given earlier in the Session by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer, any money which has been saved through the vacant Irish Judgeships will be devoted to Irish purposes.

BOARD OF TRADE.

MR. HENNIKER HEATON: On behalf of the hon. Member for Exeter (Sir STAFFORD NORTHCOTE), I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury if, considering the increased amount of work that has devolved of late years upon the Board of Trade Department, Her Majesty's Government will take into consideration the advisability of assimilating the position of the Minister at the head of that Department with that of one of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State?

*SIR C. DILKE was understood to ask the right hon. Gentleman whether, instead of confining himself strictly to the terms of the Question, he would also consider the alternative plan of rearranging the work of the Departments?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: The Government recognise that the progress of legislation has made a change both in the absolute and in the relative amount of work done by the different offices, and possibly, also, in the importance of the work done by them.

We feel, however, that it would be impossible to consider one office in isolation to the other offices, and that, probably, when the question comes to be considered, the point raised by the right hon. Baronet opposite ought not to be lost sight of. But while we admit all these facts, we do not think that the question is at present ripe for any exhaustive inquiry or for any great changes.

PRIVATE BILL PROCEDURE.

Mr. DAVID THOMAS: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, having regard to the fact that the expenses incurred by railway and other companies in Wales and Monmouthshire (exclusive of English railway companies running into Wales) in promoting and opposing private Bills and Provisional Orders before Parliament during the years 1886 to 1891 exceeded those incurred in connection with Bills from Ireland, and that, according to a statement recently made by the Home Secretary, there is no reason for supposing that there has been any material change in the circumstances since the last Return was granted, he will consider the advisability of extending to Bills coming from Wales the provisions of the Measure promised in the Queen's Speech for amending the existing procedure with respect to private Bills coming from Scotland and Ireland?

The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY: I am not at all prepared to say that the present system of legislation for England and Wales is entirely satisfactory, but I do not think that is a cause why any part of England or Wales should be dealt with separately.

COAL SUPPLIES.

Mr. DAVID THOMAS: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, in view of the increase in the production and export of British coal in recent years, the limited extent of the coalfields, and the dependence of our industrial supremacy upon an adequate supply of suitable fuel, and having regard to the fact that no official inquiry as to the probable continuance of our coal supplies has been made for nearly a quarter of a century, he will consider the advisability of appointing a Select Committee of the House to report upon the matter?

The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY: I have not had an opportunity of consulting the Home Office upon the subject, but I cannot help feeling some personal doubts as to the value of such an investigation unless the hon. Gentleman thinks that any subsequent action could be taken if the investigation showed that our coalfields were practically becoming exhausted; and that makes me feel doubtful as to the necessity or even the propriety of such an investigation.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

Mr. HERBERT ROBERTS: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he can state what Supply will be taken on Thursday the 17th instant?

The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY: The Supply we propose to take on Thursday the 17th, the day on which we reassemble after the holidays, is Class 4.

Mr. J. MORLEY (Montrose Burghs): And on the Friday?

The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY: Classes 6 and 7.

Mr. CARVELL WILLIAMS (Notts, Mansfield): Does Class 4 include the Education Vote?

The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY: Yes, Sir.

In reply to an hon. Member who asked when the Post Office Vote would be taken,

The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY: I cannot give a pledge. It will not be taken on the Thursday or the Friday after we meet. Very likely it will be taken on the Friday following, but I cannot tell.

CRETE.

The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY moved:—

> "That to-morrow this House do meet at Twelve of the Clock, and, at its rising, do Adjourn till Thursday June 17th, and that, so soon as Government business is disposed of, Mr. Speaker do Adjourn the House without Question put."

Sir CHARLES DILKE said it would be inexcusable, in view of the work that remained to be done on the Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill, if a friend of that Bill were to cause any long delay on the Motion before the House. The Foreign Office Vote had been postponed for the purpose of affording an opportunity for a general discussion upon the foreign policy of the Government on pending questions, such as affairs in the farther East in connection with China and Korea, while there were other foreign matters of importance, such as the treatment of slaves in the East Africa Protectorate, which could be dealt with on the Diplomatic and Consular Vote. But there were two questions as to which there would be a feeling in the country that an opportunity which would not offer again for a couple of weeks ought to be taken advantage of to elicit some information from the Government with regard to Turkey and Greece. With regard to Greece he would not attempt to press the Government, seeing that delicate negotiations were still in progress, although of course he should be glad if the Government could give the House any information. But it appeared to him that nothing could remove the impression under which many Members of the House rested, namely, that a terrible condition of affairs prevailed in Crete for which the policy of the Powers was in a large degree responsible. When the blockade of Crete became effective, on March 21, the policy of the Government was autonomy for Crete—autonomy of a very complete description—and the immediate removal of the Greek and Turkish forces. The whole of the Greek troops had left Crete now some time, but not a single Turkish soldier had been withdrawn from the island, and while the Powers had landed troops in considerable numbers, and while the British Power was represented by large forces, yet the Admirals appeared to be unable to maintain order, even in the town actually garrisoned by our troops. A question was put just now by the hon. Member for East Mayo, who had made a careful study of the Cretan question, and questions were put by him on the previous day, and from the answers given it appeared that disorder prevailed actually in Canea itself, and that prisoners—the persons who were supposed to have been implicated in the attack by the Mahomedans upon a Greek village, in which a number of people were killed a few days ago—these prisoners were released by the mob under the very eyes of our troops. He confessed that the Blue-book laid before the House appeared to have been selected in a very curious fashion. The Dispatches seemed to have been taken out here and there, a portion only of the story being told, and here and there with references to papers of the same date which were not disclosed. Certainly the effect was to create an unjust prejudice, in his opinion, against one side in this particular dispute. The Admirals were no doubt very excellent Admirals, from the naval point of view, but as far as he could judge of their conduct from the Blue-book, they had not displayed great diplomatic powers or great powers of governing in connection with the settlement of the solution of the immediate Cretan question. Admirals, the most distinguished, had not always been successful in diplomacy. Nelson tried to affect the policy of the Two Sicilies, but he made no great display in the art of government. Certainly the Admirals in relation to the affairs of Crete seemed to be in face of a worse state of things at the present moment than they were three months ago. The Government were very deeply committed to the establishment in Crete of a very complete form of autonomy; they were absolutely committed to the withdrawal of every Turkish soldier from the island; but they saw no progress whatever being made towards the solution of this question. Things in Crete were going from bad to worse. Even on the evidence of the Blue-book and of our Admiral himself, the steps we were now taking were making things worse, because he showed in the Blue Book that every day that passed made it more and more difficult for the island to settle down, and to be brought under capable, prosperous, and contented government. No doubt the Government had told the House that their excuse for letting things slide along in Crete as they were going on now, was that the question of the Greek frontier must be settled, the Treaty of Peace between Turkey and Greece signed, and the question of the indemnity regulated before the Cretan question could be settled. He was afraid from what he had seen in the past of this Cretan question, especially from what they had seen in the past few months, that this was merely a policy of postponement. ["Hear, hear!"] So long as they went on trying to govern Crete by a council of war composed of six Admirals, things would continue to go from bad to worse in that island. Nothing but the choice of a skilful administrator and diplomatist to act as the commissary of the different Powers was likely to lead to the cessation of the present state of things, which, in his belief, was a disgrace to Europe. ["Hear, hear!"]

MR. DILLON desired to call attention to the recent sortie from the town of Candia. It might appear to some people that these quarrels and bloody encounters, on a small scale, between the Mahomedan and Christian population of Crete, were small matters, but they were not small in their possible consequences, as they would realise when they remembered that this sortie of Candia was an occurrence exactly analogous to those which in the months of January and February last preceded the burning of Canea, and led up to the subsequent bombardment, blockade and war of Thessaly. Therefore, small as the matters were, it must be recognised that they might lead to the most regrettable consequences. So long as the Greek troops were retained in Crete, every request that was made to the Government to hurry up their operations in Crete, to declare the details of their policy of autonomy and go forward with the work of restoring peace in that island, was met with the one answer, that the occupation by the Greek troops was the only obstacle. Over and over again pledges were made from the Treasury Bench that the moment the Greek troops were withdrawn peace would be restored to the island, and the work of free government taken in hand. The last of the Greek troops left Crete on the 23rd May; it was now the 3rd June, but instead of any step being taken in the direction of giving peace and freedom to Crete they saw that fatal course of operations being indulged in which on so many previous occasions had been deliberately commenced by the Mahomedan population, with the view of involving the whole island in anarchy and confusion. This particular sortie was the first blow struck since the Greek troops left the island, and the Christian population would have reason, therefore, to doubt the promises which had been made to them by the Powers in the presence of whose very troops such an occurrence was allowed to take place, although they were there presumably for the express purpose of seeing that law and order were maintained. The Candia correspondent of *The Times* stated on the 26th that a sortie was about to take place, but the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs on being questioned on Friday the 27th of May stated that the Foreign Office had no information about the sortie. Two days after being so questioned, the sortie took place, the right hon. Gentleman stating that it had been secretly organised, and carried out without the slightest suspicion of such intention on the part of the Mahomedans or the Governor of the place. But it was clear, as was shown by the intimation given by *The Times* correspondent, that the contemplated sortie must have been a matter of common knowledge. What action did the Powers propose to take to secure the punishment of the men who had engaged in the sortie and in the outrages incident to it? He was rather surprised at an answer given by the Under Secretary to the question who was responsible for order and law in Candia. The right hon. Gentleman replied that the Turkish Governor was so responsible. All he had to say was that it was a bad look out for law and order. That was another way of saying that no man's life or property was safe. It was impossible for any one of the six Powers to wash their hands of responsibility for the acts of ruthlessness and violence, conducted under the very shadow of their flags. It was idle for them to disclaim the responsibility which the fact of the occupation of the island cast upon them.

MR. CURZON: I was not disclaiming it. I especially acknowledged it. Whilst I said in the first paragraph of my answer that the Turkish Governor was responsible for the maintenance of law and order in the town, I went on to say it must be considered that he is under the direction of the Admirals who represent the Powers and have control of the European occupying troops.

MR. DILLON hoped instructions would be sent to the Admirals to show the same alacrity in restoring order and seeing justice carried out that they displayed in shelling the insurgents on another occasion around Candia. It was said that after the Greek troops had left the island the blockade would cease. The troops had left, and yet the blockade continued. There was no blockade against the Mahomedan inhabitants, but against the Christians, without distinction of person or sex. Why, now the Greek troops had left, was the blockade maintained? He was convinced that, if at the beginning, the Cretan population had been treated with a little consideration and kindness, the bombardments which had shocked the moral sentiment of the country, and the war in Thessaly would never have taken place. If the Cretans had not been treated as rebels and enemies, but with common sense and sympathy, showing that this country meant to do them justice and to rescue them from the position in which they were placed, a peaceful arrangement might have been brought about. He had asked why the Admirals' Dispatches had been published, while previous and far more interesting and valuable papers had been kept back. A sentence in the Dispatch of Rear-Admiral Harris of March 4th showed that, however estimable he might be, he was utterly unfit to deal with the insurgent population. Before he had had any opportunity of making himself acquainted with the character of the Cretan people, he wrote speaking of them as a savage race who only understood force. No wonder he soon began to use force, and concluded that force was the only remedy. But history showed that the Cretans had had nothing but force for three centuries. It was just another sample of what was admitted by all nations to be characteristic of the Anglo-Saxon race—the utter incapacity to understand suffering races such as the Cretans. In connection with the Jubilee celebrations, it was his intention to put a question to the Government as to whether they proposed to follow the example of all civilised nations by taking the occasion of the great national thanksgiving to extend a measure of amnesty to the political prisoners now lying in gaol in this country and in Ireland. The Government had been questioned over and over again on that subject, and the stereotyped answer was that they had nothing more to say in addition to what had been said by the Home Secretary. It was impossible to deny that it was the custom of civilised nations on occasions of national rejoicing to signalise them by the remission of sentences. On the occasion of the Coronation of the late Czar, upwards of 1,000 prisoners were released. The Jubilee celebration was undoubtedly an occasion of great national rejoicing to Great Britain and the Empire, but it was an occasion in which the Irish people could not join. Even if the Government should be so well advised as to release those prisoners—about a dozen in number—he (Mr. Dillon) could not pretend that that would cause the Irish people to join in the Jubilee celebrations, but it would have a considerable effect in lessening the bitterness that existed in Ireland in reference to this matter. [*Cheers.*] A few weeks ago a strange interview took place between Mr. Greene, England's representative in Pretoria, and the President of the Republic. Mr. Greene called upon President Kruger and asked him to release the Johannesburg prisoners still in gaol. President Kruger replied that they could get out by signing some papers which had already been signed by other prisoners released. The prisoners said they could not see their way to sign the papers, and Mr. Greene pointed out to Mr. Kruger that it was the custom of most civilised countries that when the circumstances in connection with which criminals had been sentenced had passed away, the sentences were reconsidered. "Am I to look upon your country as uncivilised?" said Mr. Greene. Mr. Kruger, in reply, said:—

> "You have in Ireland still in your gaols, I am informed, Irish political prisoners who have lain there for 12 or 13 or 14 years, and yet your Government refuses to consider their sentences. Am I to conclude that your country is uncivilised?"

He was informed that Mr. Greene thereupon withdrew, and pursued the subject no further. There really was no answer to that. It was said that England was one of the most liberty-loving countries in the world, and the Government professed to administer their laws with humanity, and yet no civilised nation had under similar circumstances of rejoicing refused to open the prison doors to those unfortunate political prisoners. He did believe that if these political prisoners were released, it would create a profound effect upon public sentiment in Ireland. The proposition had been laid down recently that these prisoners should not be dealt with except on considerations of health. He had heard more than one Chief Secretary repudiate, as he would a most scandalous charge, the suggestion that political considerations should influence him in regard to these prisoners, and up to the present time no Irish political prisoners had been amnestied; they had only been released when the condition of their health was such that any prisoner would have been released under similar circumstances. He directed the attention of the House to the Debate which took place in that House in 1877, when Mr. J. O'Connor Power moved a Resolution in favour of amnesty. Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Gathorne Hardy, and Lord Hartington spoke on that occasion, and Lord Hartington then said that supposing these men were to be treated as political prisoners, if on general grounds Her Majesty's advisers, acting upon their own responsibility, came to the conclusion that the political advantages which would accompany a general amnesty of these political offenders would be such as to outweigh any disadvantages which might arise from their release, he believed that such a decision would be received with the greatest possible satisfaction on his side of the House. That opinion was also endorsed by Mr. Gathorne Hardy. The principle had been laid down and accepted on both sides of the House that these questions of dealing with political prisoners should be looked at from the point of view of political expediency, and if the Government would not accept that view, they would be going back to an earlier and more illiberal policy. It was open to the Government to consider whether the effect on Ireland of releasing these prisoners would not be well worth any disadvantages which might occur, and whether it would not be a good stroke of policy. He did not believe for a single moment that even if all these men were released, the Irish people could take an active part in the Jubilee celebration, but he was deeply convinced that if the political prisoners were released as a part of the Jubilee proceedings, it would create a profound effect on public sentiment in Ireland, and would lead to great political advantages.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: I will not discuss how far it was fitting for the hon. Gentleman to say that his party proposes to take no part in the Jubilee celebration, or whether he made that the foundation of the appeal which he has addressed to the House. ["Hear, hear!"] But in any case I will at once say that we are really absolved from following the line of his argument from the fact that we differ from him fundamentally as to the premisses on which that argument was based. He has quoted a conversation which I personally had not heard of before, which is alleged to have taken place between President Kruger and Mr. Greene. Mr. Kruger, according to the hon. Gentleman, has been under the impression that we were keeping in prison in this country prisoners who, in ordinary parlance, would be described as political prisoners. Now, the hon. Gentleman knows that that is not our opinion. I think I should probably be not far wrong when I say that if President Kruger knew the facts, he would not deny that we were right, neither would he be disposed to release, nor would any Englishman propose that he should release any individuals who, in the furtherance of their designs, used dynamite or attempted to use dynamite—["hear, hear!"]—and endeavoured to further their designs by means abhorrent to every moral and every civilised man. Sir, that is the real answer to the hon. Gentleman. If the persons with whom we were concerned were of the class of the Fenian conspirators, who, I imagine, were in question in the Debate to which he referred, I could understand the relevance of his speech, whether I should agree with his opinions or not; but I deny that the speech is relevant at all at the present time. The persons for whom he is pleading, in our view, and in the view of the majority on both sides of the House, are not to be classed among political prisoners, and it is a view which we have so often expressed in the House before that I do not propose to discuss it now.

MR. DILLON: The Home Secretary stated that he accepted that classification.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: No, what the Home Secretary said was that these prisoners had a political object in the crime which they sought to commit, and that was true, but that they did not on that account fairly come within that classification in which the hon. Gentleman desired to place them. They cannot and ought not to be treated in the manner in which the Fenians, for example, were treated on the occasion to which the hon. Gentleman has referred. That is all I need say, I think, on the well-worn theme of the dynamite prisoners now serving their term of imprisonment. I will say a few words upon the Debate upon Cretan affairs raised by the right hon. Member for the Forest of Dean and by the hon. Gentleman who has just sat down. I do not think I need say very much on the subject; it must be felt by the House that this is not the time at which it would be possible for the Government to give a full acount of the exact state of the negotiations now taking place. A full account of the main lines of the policy of the Government has been often given, and does not require to be repeated; of the details of the negotiations with the other Powers by which that policy is to be carried into effect, this is hardly the time to speak. I think both the Gentlemen who have addressed us seem to hold, as we certainly hold, that the discussion on foreign affairs should be delayed until some time when we can take it up with more liberty, and can take the House into our full confidence in regard to the course of the negotiations dealing both with Crete and Greece. Let me further say that I think the hon. Gentleman's reference to recent events in Canea is calculated to give an extremely false impression both to the House and the country. I believe I am right in saying that the most regrettable incident to which he referred is one of three incidents only in which the Mahommedan population, or any section of them, have got out of hand; and, considering the perennial hostility between the two sections of islanders, the constant attacks to which the Mahommedans have been subjected, and that through all these months it is the Christians who have been on the offensive and the Mahommedans on the defensive, I think we have reason to congratulate ourselves that, on the whole, matters have not been worse than they have been. I think very little would be served by recapitulating the equally regrettable incidents which have marked on many occasions the actions of the insurgents. The hon. Gentleman is perfectly well aware that such incidents have occurred, and such incidents are, I fear, inevitable when you are dealing with a state of things such as prevails now in Crete. But I think common justice both to the Admirals, to the European troops, and to the Mahomedan population ought to compel us to say that, on the whole, the deplorable act of retaliation to which reference has been made is but one of a very small number of similar acts which were done, most unfortunately, but which were done under very serious provocation. The hon. Gentleman appears to think that we are to blame for not having succeeded in convincing the great majority of the inhabitants of Crete that their best interests would be served by at once accepting the solution of the situation suggested by the Powers, and that they might find in us the true friends of Crete and Greece. I do not know whether we have been guilty of any acts of omission in this respect, but the persons who have been most sedulously occupied in telling the Cretans that all our efforts were misguided, and that the end of those efforts must be failure, have been the hon. Gentleman and those who have spoken as he has in this House. [*Cheers.*] The right hon. Member for the Forest of Dean seems to be under the impression that things in Crete are going from bad to worse. Undoubtedly a condition of disorganisation and anarchy cannot last as long as it has lasted in Crete without producing very deplorable consequences, and leaving behind it many regrettable remembrances which it will take long, perhaps, wholly to efface. But I think I can assure the House that we need not take a pessimistic view of the future of the island. The difficulties of the situation, no doubt, are great, and they are aggravated, and must be aggravated, by the fact that we have not only to deal with the problem of Crete, but also with the more difficult and pressing problem of the settlement of the basis of peace between Turkey and Greece. But although those difficulties have to be contended with, I see no reason why they should not be surmounted. This is a transitional epoch, and I fully grant that we cannot expect to see order restored in Crete until the transitional method of dealing with the situation which the Powers have been driven to adopt shall have come to an end. It is not until there is a governor with a gendarmerie at his disposal, it is not until those elements of good government are established in Crete, that we can hope to see there the fruits of liberty and autonomy which, I cannot doubt, will in Crete, as elsewhere, do so much to promote the happiness of the inhabitants of the island. ["Hear, hear!"]

MR. JAMES BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.) said that he did not rise for the purpose of making any criticism upon what the right hon. Gentleman called the policy of the Government, but only to call attention to the fact that, as far as the public could judge, no progress whatever was being made in carrying out that policy. Three months had now elapsed since the right hon. Gentleman's declaration that the policy of the Government was "Peace for Europe and autonomy for Crete." As far as Crete was concerned, we were not one step more advanced than we were in March, and the population of the island was almost more exasperated and distrustful than it had ever been. People were watching the conduct of the Powers and of the Government with astonishment and regret. The first and obvious course for them to take would be to procure the removal of the Turkish troops. He did not believe that there would have been any great difficulty in pacifying the Cretan people if those troops had been removed. That step would have been an earnest of the good intentions of the Powers, in which it was almost impossible for the Cretans to believe while the Turkish troops remained in the island. If it was said that the troops could not be removed for fear of attacks by the Christians on the Mussulman population, it must be clear that the only alternative course would be to settle at once the terms of autonomy and to bring these terms to the knowledge of the Cretan people. Last Tuesday the First Lord of the Treasury told them, however, that no progress had been made, and that the terms of autonomy had not yet been settled. In those circumstances they were bound to suppose that the concert of Europe was as much divided on this subject as it had been on other matters, and that the suspicions and jealousies which had prevented the Powers from co-operating in other directions were also preventing them from co-operating in regard to Crete. He regarded the present position with the greatest anxiety, and feared that the prolongation of the state of tension in Crete might influence gravely the situation on the mainland and might even endanger that European peace for the preservation of which they were told such sacrifices had been made.

*SIR ELLIS ASHMEAD-BARTLETT (Sheffield, Ecclesall) said that the right hon. Gentleman who had just sat down (Mr. Bryce) evidently belonged to the class of the unteachable. He complained of no progress being made in the pacification of Crete during the past two months. He had evidently forgotten that his friends were largely responsible for the unfortunate events in Greece, and so for the postponement of the pacification of Crete. Had they not all heard of the famous telegram sent by 100 Members of that House, which had some influence in precipitating Greece into the unfortunate struggle in which she had engaged? He did not know whether the right hon. Gentleman himself signed that telegram, but, if he did not, he was quite capable of signing it. [*Laughter.*] The right hon. Gentleman, who complained that no progress had been made in Crete, might recollect with profit this and similar episodes. He had rejoiced to hear the Leader of the House render justice to the conduct of the Mussulmans in Crete, and he thought it was time that hon. Members opposite should consider seriously what had been the practical outcome of their policy of vilifying and abusing the Turkish Sovereign, the Turkish Government, and the Turkish people. Whom had they thereby benefited? Had they benefited the Armenians, or the Cretans, or their *protégés* the Greeks? They had absolutely done no good to any class, or nation, or interest in the world by their policy of atrocity-mongering and sham sentiment. [*Opposition cries of* "Oh!"]

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR: Is it sham sentiment when there have been 100,000 deaths in Armenia?

*SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT said the number of 100,000 was a great exaggeration; but the violent and calumnious attacks upon Turkey and Mussulmans in general, long before any real atrocities had occurred in Asia Minor, were largely responsible for the subsequent troubles and loss of life which he had always deeply deplored. It would, indeed, be wise for hon. Gentlemen opposite to consider whether the course of injustice and calumny towards Turkey in which they had indulged for the last two years had been successful in any way, even from a party point of view. He agreed that it would be unwise to attempt to discuss now in detail the terms of peace between Turkey and Greece. It was generally accepted in this country that Turkey was practically forced into the war, and as the Turkish Government had behaved with remarkable forbearance and moderation before and during the struggle, he trusted that after it they would show themselves to be magnanimous. But it was hardly the right way to induce the Turkish Power to be forbearing to attribute to it constantly—as was recklessly done by a section of the English Press—every sort of malign and unjust motive in the peace negotiations. It was only natural that a Power which had been forced into war and which had been victorious, should claim certain advantages. To deliberately charge that Power with unfairness, evil intent, and underhand dealing, because it endeavoured to do its best for its own people, was a monstrous and very unwise act in the interests of Greece and of general peace. [*Cheers.*] The House ought not to overlook the tremendous dangers to which this war exposed Turkey. It was not only the danger of meeting Greece, because that was a comparatively small one, but it was the tremendous danger that the other Balkan States, and even Russia herself, should join in the war against Turkey. In his opinion, Turkey and Greece ought to be friends, and not enemies, and he was glad to say that he found that opinion shared by many leading personages both in Greece and Turkey. [*Cheers.*] Greece was the one anti-Slav State in the Balkan Peninsula, and Turkey was, of course, the chief bulwark for guarding Constantinople and the Straits against Slavonic conquest. That these two countries should have endeavoured to weaken each other by a wholly needless war was deplorable. If it was true that there was a powerful influence in Europe which had encouraged Greece in its unfortunate attack upon Turkey, a great and desperate crime had been committed for which he hoped the Power that was responsible might some day have to suffer. The conspicuous feature of the war was the manifestation of the true power of Turkey and the high qualities of the Turkish people, whose strength many people in this country had been inclined to underestimate. The war had proved that Turkey was a very important military Power; it had proved beyond all doubt the splendid courage of her soldiers, and it had also proved how great was the discipline and good conduct of the Turkish troops. He hoped these facts would be remembered when hon. Gentlemen opposite were led to indulge in indiscriminate abuse of Turkey. British influence did not, at present, stand high at Constantinople. He lamented the fact, which was largely due to the hon. Gentlemen who took part in this atrocity-mongering campaign. It was also largely due to the errors of the British representative at Constantinople. ["Hear, hear!"] Other Powers had had the intelligence, while many persons in England had been raving and abusing Turkey without rhyme or reason, to offer their support and protection to Turkey, and the result was that other Powers had gained the influence which we had lost. German policy had been as wise towards Turkey as British policy had of late been unfortunate. In any great Eastern struggle, such as we might find ourselves involved in at any time, as also in a great European war, the balance of military power would be held by those splendid Ottoman troops. As to the speech of the hon. Member for Mayo with respect to Crete, the hon. Member had shown his usual onesidedness and intemperance of language. The value of the hon. Member's opinion on Eastern questions might be gauged from the indiscriminate condemnation which he passed on the Imperial qualities of the Anglo-Saxon race. The hon. Gentleman said that the Anglo-Saxon race alone exhibited a total incapacity for sympathy with and humanity to inferior races.

Mr. DILLON: I said to insurgent and suffering people.

*Sir E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT said he would adopt the words of the hon. Member, and say that no race showed so much capacity for sympathy with suffering people as the Anglo-Saxon race. The history of India should have given the hon. Member pause in such a statement. [*Cheers.*] In the whole of his speech the hon. Gentleman (Mr. Dillon) had made no single reference to the outrages and massacres committed by the Cretan Christians on Mahomedans. For the last 12 months, and especially for the last five months, the Christians had murdered every Mussulman, man, woman, or child, they could get hold of. In one district 1,100 were massacred in a fortnight; and the other day 300 orphan Mahomedan children were sent from Crete to Constantinople. This question was always treated by Members opposite in a onesided way. In the case of Armenia none of the many atrocity-mongers ever said a word as to the fact that many of those unfortunate massacres were started by Mussulman refugees from Bulgaria of twenty years ago, who had seen their homes destroyed and their families outraged and murdered by Christian invaders, and who themselves were forced to leave all that was dear to them and to take refuge in the towns and villages of Asia Minor. Nor was any reference made by our Turcophile politicians to the deliberate provocation given by the Armenian revolutionary conspirators, in order to provoke Mussulman reprisals. These facts were not a complete justification, but should be borne in mind in considering the question. ["Hear, hear!"] There was a great deal to be said for Turkey and the Turks, and if the events that had taken place only led hon. Gentlemen to be fair and just to the Mussulman, something would have been accomplished for the future peace and good government of these Eastern countries. ["Hear, hear!"] The hon. Member was anxious that the Turkish troops should be hustled out of Crete. Everyone bore witness to the admirable discipline and good conduct of those troops, and upon their presence in the island depended the lives and fortunes of 100,000 Mussulman refugees. The returns showed that the Mussulman population of Crete had been greatly under-rated. There were over 100,000 Mussulmans, and at least 60,000 were now dependent on charity. The Christian insurgents had driven them from their homes and seized their food and their property. If the Turkish troops were removed from Crete, and unless the Powers were prepared to treble the European forces there, the lives of the Mussulmans would be in danger, and there would be scenes of carnage which would throw into the shade the worst deeds of Armenia. Moreover, the sailors of the allied fleets now on shore were actually dependent for their protection upon the Turkish troops. He was glad to know that there had been a great improvement in the public knowledge and feeling in this country on the Cretan question, and especially with regard to the character of the Turks. He hoped before long to see the old policy of friendly pressure substituted for the new policy of hostile coercion. There was some chance of restoring the old understanding and good feeling between Turkey and England, which was absolutely necessary for the power and well-being of both countries.

Mr. T. P. O'CONNOR (Liverpool, Scotland) said that he should be sorry to hold the Government responsible for the hon. Member for the Ecclesall division; but he would advise them, if they wished to curtail debate, to muzzle the hon. Member. ["Hear, hear," *and laughter.*] When the hon. Member threw across the House such terms as "sham sentiment" and "atrocity-mongering," and advocated a return to the alliance between this country and Turkey, it was more than flesh and blood could stand. [*Cheers.*] But the hon. Member stood alone in his views; and there was a fixed determination on both sides that never again under any circumstances should there be any alliance between this country and Turkey. [*Cheers, and cries of* "Oh!"] "Sham sentiment" meant that people had deplored and denounced the massacre of 100,000 human beings; and "atrocity-mongering" meant that meetings had been held to express the indignation which had been excited. He preferred such sham sentiment to the genuine sentiment of the hon. Gentleman; and as to such atrocity-mongering, the country would have been false to its best traditions if it had not taken part in it. No one denied the bravery of the Turkish troops; but the victory did not alter the merits of the struggle, which was between civilisation on the one side and savagery on the other. [*Cheers, and cries of* "No!"] Did any one propose to hand over to Turkey, except for perhaps a fortress or pass, a single rood of the land which had been won back to civilisation and Christianity? The world had made up its mind with regard to Turkey. [*Cheers.*]

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis) said that undoubtedly there were Members in this House—and he was one of them—who held that Turkey should not be deprived of the fruits of her victory. [*Cries of* "Oh!"] Turkey had succeeded where the whole Concert of Europe had failed. The Concert of Europe had been engaged for months in the endeavour to get the Greek troops out of Crete; they were defied by Greece and by Colonel Vassos, and they could not get a single man or gun out of the island. It was reserved for the despised Turk, by a series of the most brilliant and glorious victories she had ever won—[*cries of* "Oh!"]—to effect that which the Concert of Europe failed to effect, and now the Greek soldiers had left Crete. The Turk had drawn the chestnuts out of the fire for the Concert; was he to have no chestnut for himself—all the more that it was his own chestnut? Thessaly was at this moment under mortgage to Turkey for the payment of the debt due to it by the Greek Government. By the Convention of May 1881, the Powers of Europe undertook to fix the portion of the foreign Government debt which should be paid by Greece in consideration of the cession to her of Thessaly. The Powers of Europe had never to this day done their duty, and Greece had been permitted to occupy the territory without assuming that portion of the debt which belonged to her. Now the mortgagee had come into possession. Turkey had a double claim to a portion at least of this territory. She had the claim of a mortgagee in possession, and the claim of every victor who had been put to the hazard of war and won the hazard. But there was more than this. The Ottoman Empire had been forced to defend itself first against the most disorderly and lawless bands, whom even the Greeks themselves now repudiated, and then against the Greek regulars. Was the sacrificed expenditure of blood by Turkey alone not to be regarded in all the history of war? Did not Turkey herself have to pay a large indemnity to Russia? And that indemnity had been paid punctually as arranged year by year. There was not a penny of that debt in arrear at this moment. He believed that an indemnity of 10 millions was not at all an excessive indemnity for Greece to pay; but whether that was so or not, at any rate Turkey was entitled to hold as a pledge for the payment of that indemnity the territory she had conquered until the indemnity was paid. He hoped the Government would not commit themselves to what he considered would be the tremendous blunder of undertaking to coerce Turkey to leave the conquered territory before she had received adequate satisfaction for the sacrifices she had undergone. He doubted, indeed, whether it was in the power of this country or the whole Concert of Europe to turn the Turks out of Thessaly now they were there; even assuming that they all agreed to attempt the task. He urged another point. From the newspapers he gathered that the Ambassadors at Constantinople had been made plenipotentiaries for the purpose of conducting the negotiations. He trusted that was not the case, and that Her Majesty's Government would themselves keep control of the negotiations. It would be improper to avoid saying that Her Majesty's Government at Constantinople had failed in every one of the five plans which he had proposed—[*cries of* "Oh!"]—for the improvement of the Turkish Empire. That being so, that Ambassador was not a man to be left there as plenipotentiary to settle on behalf of England the terms of this most important peace—a peace, the terms of which would affect the future of Europe for many generations.

MR. J. A. PEASE (Northumberland, Tyneside) took the opportunity of protesting against the policy of the Government with regard to the continuance of slavery over the area in East Africa over which they had direct control. Last week the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs stated that our Administrator at Mombasa had received instructions to exercise his discretion as to whether or not slaves should be given up when demanded. That was directly contrary to a declaration of the late Attorney General two years ago, that any British subject who should receive or detain a slave was guilty of an unlawful act. He held in his hand several demands made by our Administrator in East Africa to the Church Missionary Society, and he protested—and he believed the country as a whole would agree in the protest—against the continuance of such a system.

Resolved,—

"That To-morrow this House do meet at Twelve of the Clock, and at its rising do Adjourn till Thursday the 17th June, and that so soon as Government Business is disposed of Mr. Speaker do Adjourn the House without Question put."

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE (SUPPLY).

Ordered, That the other Government Business have precedence To-morrow of the Committee of Supply.—*(First Lord of the Treasury.)*

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

WORKMEN (COMPENSATION FOR ACCIDENTS) BILL.

Considered in Committee. [Progress 2nd June.]

[The Chairman of Ways and Means, Mr. J. W. Lowther, in the Chair.]

FIRST SCHEDULE,—

SCALE AND CONDITIONS OF COMPENSATION.—SCALE.

(1.) The amount of compensation under this Act shall be—

(*a*) where death results from the injury—

(i) if the workman leave dependants, a sum equal to his earnings during the *three* years next preceding the injury, or the sum of *one hundred and fifty pounds*, whichever of those sums is the larger, but not exceeding in any case *three hundred pounds*, provided that the amount of any weekly payments made under this Act shall be deducted from such sum; and

(ii) if he leaves no dependants, the reasonable expenses of his medical attendance and burial not exceeding *ten pounds*.

(*b*) in case of incapacity for work, a weekly payment during the incapacity after the second week not exceeding *fifty* per cent. of his weekly earnings at the time of the accident, such weekly payment not to exceed *one pound*.

(2.) The payment shall, in case of death, be made to the legal personal representative of the workman, or, if he has no legal personal representative, to his dependants, or, if he leaves no dependants, to the person to whom the expenses are due.

(3.) The expression "dependants" in this schedule means such members of the workman's family as are entitled to damages in cases under the Fatal Accidents Act 1846; and any question as to who is a dependant, or as to the amount payable to each dependant shall, in default of agreement, be settled by arbitration under this Act.

(4.) If any of the dependants is an infant his share of compensation may be invested for his benefit as directed by the arbitrator.

(5.) Any weekly payment may be reviewed at intervals of not less than *three* months at the request either of the employer or of the workman, and on such review may be ended, diminished, or increased, subject to the maximum above provided, and the amount of payment shall, in default of agreement, be settled by arbitration under this Act.

(6.) A weekly payment shall not be capable of being assigned or charged, and shall not pass to any other person by operation of law.

The SECRETARY of STATE for the HOME DEPARTMENT (Sir Matthew White Ridley, Lancashire, Blackpool) moved in Section (3) to leave out the words "as are entitled to damages in cases under," and to insert instead thereof the words "as are specified in."

Amendment agreed to.

Sir JOHN BRUNNER (Cheshire, Northwich) moved, in Section (3), after the words "Fatal Accidents Act 1846," to insert the words, "In the Third Schedule of this Act." He should like to persuade the Government to get rid of this legislation by reference. This Bill would have to be interpreted in many instances for years to come by workmen acting through their organisations or in their individual capacity, and where possible, he urged that the Government should print in the Bill the list contained in the Fatal Accidents Act of 1846. If this course was not adopted, great additional expense would be imposed on poor people because the Government would not take the trouble to copy a few words from an Act and insert them in the present Bill. It might not be an elegant method from the point of view of draftsmanship, but if the Amendment could not be inserted here he would attempt to induce the Prime Minister to insert it in the Bill when it reached the House of Lords.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS: The Amendment would be contrary to order. The Committee has not seen the proposed Third Schedule.

SIR J. BRUNNER said that if hon. Members had seen the Act of 1846 they were in possession of the knowledge as to the full extent of the Schedule.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS: It is contrary to order to move an Amendment in this way referring to a proposed Amendment which does not appear on the Paper, and of which no notice has been given.

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY moved, in Section (3), after "1846," to insert the words:—

> "as were wholly or in part dependent upon the earnings of the workman at the time of or immediately prior to his death."

MR. C. A. CRIPPS (Gloucester, Stroud) put the case of a child earning 5s. a week, with a parent or grand-parent dependent on its labour. Under the Bill as it at present stood would that child be entitled to a minimum of £150 a year? Again, supposing there was a dependant of a working man who at the time was in receipt of a shilling or two a week, would the effect of the Bill be to give this dependant £150?

MR. HENRY SETON-KARR (St. Helens) said he had framed an Amendment to meet this case, which he looked upon as of great importance. He put the case of an old miner supported by a number of sons. If one of the sons died, the father, who was receiving, perhaps, a shilling or two a week from the son, would be entitled to £150, and the same thing would happen in the case of a child. It did not seem to be right or just that such a large sum should be paid. He suggested that the arbitrator should have the power to give such an amount as, in respect of any minimum, was right and fair in the circumstances of the case.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS suggested to the hon. Member that it would be advisable to wait his proper turn in moving that Amendment.

Sir John Brunner.

*SIR C. DILKE: Is the case of the posthumous child dealt with? ["Hear, hear!"]

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Sir RICHARD WEBSTER, Isle of Wight): There will be a mother then. [*Laughter.*]

Amendment agreed to.

MR. J. W. CROMBIE (Kincardineshire) moved, in Section (3), after "1846; and," to insert the words:—

> "Provided that the word 'child' shall, if the arbitrator thinks fit, be construed to include an illegitimate child, and the word 'parent' to include the unmarried mother of the workman, who was or were at the time of the workman's death living in the house of the deceased."

He pointed out that this Amendment dealt with a hard case. If a mother, leading a respectable life, and working in a factory, met with a fatal accident, her illegitimate child was cut off from all compensation on account of a misfortune for which it was in no way responsible. It might be urged that this was a very great change in the law; but, after all, this Bill was a still greater change in the law, and to include such a case as this was really in harmony with the generous principle of the Bill.

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY said that the Government could not accept the Amendment. It involved a startling change in the law. The cases of illegitimate children were not the only hard cases, and if the Committee were to add these dependants and other relations, whether legitimate or illegitimate, he was afraid the time of the Committee would be greatly occupied.

SIR C. DILKE thought that the reason adduced by the Home Secretary was a very bad one. The Committee could not be better engaged than in considering with a view to adoption an Amendment dealing with a hard case like this. The Amendment had been moved in a very guarded form. Though it would still leave hard cases, the Amendment was so limited that he believed it would be safe to insert it in the Bill.

MR. LIONEL HOLLAND (Tower Hamlets, Bow) said that as he understood the principle of Lord Campbell's Act of 1846, it was that compensation should only be paid to people who had a legal claim upon the workman during his lifetime. He did not say that that general principle should be discarded. What was now proposed was not to alter it, but to extend it somewhat further by including such illegitimate children as would have a legal claim if the workman had lived, and thus secure that the legal claim of those children should not be destroyed by the workman's death. He hoped, therefore, the Government would see their way to accepting the Amendment. It was not designed to encourage indiscretion on the part of the man. Its object was to protect innocent children. It was none of their business to see that the sins of the father were visited on the children. But it was their business to see that the original taint was as far as possible removed from the child, and that he was given an opportunity of growing up a respectable citizen. As the Bill stood it was more likely than the Amendment to encourage lax ideas in regard to marriage, for it would be to the pecuniary advantage of the employer—though he did not say that the employer would allow the idea to influence him—to employ men whose children were illegitimate.

Mr. HENRY BROADHURST (Leicester) thought it was perfectly justifiable for the hon. Gentleman who had just sat down that the tendency of the Bill, as it stood, would be to encourage employers to employ men with illegitimate children. Why, it had been argued already by hon. Gentlemen opposite that the effect of the Bill would be to encourage the employment of single men, or men without families; and that came to the same thing as the argument of the hon. Gentleman. To his mind the Amendment was far too narrow. He would include within the scope of the Act all illegitimate children, on the ground that those children must be the greatest sufferers from, while they were no partners to, the indiscretions committed by their parents. Besides, it was not from a love of doing wrong that those indiscretions were committed. They were due in many cases to a want of proper acommodation, and it was society, and not the man or the woman that was the criminal. He knew a great number of cases where the housing of the poor in rural parishes was so bad, that young men and women, from 12 to 28 years, brothers and sisters, and sometimes lodgers, all crowded together in one small attic called a bedroom. How could these poor creatures be held responsible for the immorality of their lives? He thought it was a monstrous thing, under the circumstances, to exclude illegitmate children from the benefits of the Act.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL said he had great sympathy with the Amendment. Nothing saddened him so much in the considerable experience he had now had of the criminal courts than the sight of a poor girl put on trial, while the father got off perfectly scathless. Therefore, hon. Members would understand that, while he was obliged to point out how impossible it was to accept the Amendment, he felt strongly for a class who were unduly punished both by society and the law. ["Hear, hear!"] But that really was not the question. They must remember that illegitimate children were not the only deserving class that were left out. The case of a nephew or a niece, a brother or a sister, supported by the man who had been killed, was even more deserving than the case of the illegitimate child; and yet it was found impossible to include those cases. The Amendment would only bring in one out of many deserving classes; and, however they might sympathise with it, they must feel that the decision of the Home Secretary in refusing to accept it was the only possible decision.

Mr. J. WILSON (Falkirk Burghs) was not at all surprised that English Members were in sympathy with this Amendment, but he was astonished to find the Amendment moved by a Scotchman, because the Scotch managed these things better. [*Laughter.*] In Scotland marriage legitimised children born out of wedlock, and he advised the Government to bring up the English law to the level of the Scotch law.

Sir J. BRUNNER said that this was not a case of being generous, but of being just to the unfortunate children of an illegitimate union. He trusted the Amendment would be pressed to a Division.

*Sir ELLIOTT LEES (Birkenhead) did not suppose a single Member of the House would desire to visit the sins of the father upon the child, but at the same time it must be remembered that there were hard cases through illegitimacy amongst all classes, and until the law was altered so as to allow illegitimate children to succeed to property in case of intestacy, they could not, in justice, offer the illegitimate children of one class special benefit under this Bill. It would be a slur upon the working classes—["hear, hear!"]—to enact special legislation dealing with the illegitimate children of that class, on the assumption that a state of things existed amongst them which did not exist amongst all classes.

Sir ROBERT REID (Dumfries Burghs) said it would be hard that punishment should descend upon the illegitimate child. Under the Amendment, however, there would be a difference between the legitimate and illegitimate child, because in the case of the legitimate child there would be a right to compensation, and in the case of the illegitimate child the granting of compensation would be discretionary on the part of the arbitrator.

Question put, "That those words be there inserted."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 106; Noes, 203.—(Division List, No. 234.)

Sir J. BRUNNER moved to add the following proviso:—

"Provided that the word 'dependant' shall in no case be construed to include a person of unsound mind."

His Amendment, he said, might look cruel, but it was, in fact, intended by him to have a merciful effect. The Committee would see at once that the maximum provision under the Bill was entirely inadequate for a person of unsound mind, and his idea in moving the Amendment was that persons of unsound mind should not be maintained at the homes of relatives and under circumstances which were not fitting for those kind of persons. It seemed to him that every person of unsound mind should be under skilled charge, and that, if possible, unless the relatives were wealthy enough to provide ample supervision, these poor persons should be under the charge of the public authorities.

The SECRETARY of STATE for the COLONIES (Mr. J. Chamberlain, Birmingham, W.) was quite sure the hon. Baronet intended the Amendment in the most kindly spirit, but he could assure him it might be productive of the very greatest hardship, while at the same time it would be difficult of practical application. ["Hear, hear!"] There were a great many cases in which these persons were most affectionately treated by their relatives at home, and it would be a cruelty to compel them to be sent to some other place away from those who were now taking care of them. ["Hear, hear!"] He thought it was too difficult a matter on which to lay down anything like a stereotyped rule.

Amendment negatived.

Mr. SETON-KARR moved further to add the following proviso:—

"Provided that in any case in which such dependants are only in part dependent upon such earnings the minimum of £150 mentioned in Clause 1 (*a* 1) of this schedule shall not apply, but the arbitrator shall decide what part thereof shall be paid to such dependants."

The object of the Amendment, he said, was simply to deal with the case of a child earning, it might be, a few shillings a week, who was killed in the course of his employment. Under the clause referred to in this Amendment the parent or parents of that child would receive the minimum compensation of £150. But could it be said that in that case the parent or parents were dependent upon that child's earnings to such an extent as to entitle them to the minimum amount of compensation? A great deal had been said in the course of their Debates about justice and expediency, but this was neither justice nor expediency. It was simply lavish generosity. These were cases which should be provided for, and if the Government did not approve of the wording of his Amendment, but would put the same idea into their own words, he should be perfectly satisfied.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN said the case put by his hon. Friend was one which had escaped the consideration of the Government. It was, briefly, that the workman who was killed might be a boy or a girl or a person earning very small wages indeed. The dependants on that person could not, therefore, have received, or be expected to have received, very much pecuniary benefit from those earnings, and it would be unfair in such a case to award to them the minimum which was provided by this Bill—that was to say, a sum equal either to three years' wages or £150. That was a case which was not intended, and which would have to be met. But he did not like the words of his right hon. Friend's Amendment, which went a little too far and practically did away with the minimum, because he said that in every case in which the dependants were only partially dependent the minimum was not to apply. That would take almost every case, because even in the case of a wife and child it was quite possible they might be earning something at the time of the workman's death, and, therefore would not be entirely dependent on him. The Government would try their hands at an Amendment to meet this case. It was a rather complicated matter, and he was afraid they could not do so without further time for consideration, and he would suggest the withdrawal of the Amendment, with the promise that Government would consider it and endeavour to meet the case.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON (Tower Hamlets, Poplar) thought the statement made by the right hon. Gentleman a very fair one; but he hoped that in allowing the Amendment to be considered on Report it would be distinctly and clearly understood that, as far as Members on that side of the House were concerned, all those Amendments that were intended in substance to reduce the amount of compensation would be strenuously resisted. If an Amendment could be framed dealing with this small point in which some injustice might possibly be done, they would be willing to consider it on Report; but Amendments that were really intended indirectly to reduce the amount of compensation would receive their strenuous opposition. ["Hear, hear!"]

MR. CHAMBERLAIN said he thought the speech just addressed to the Committee was a very unnecessary speech—[*cheers*]—absolutely unnecessary, whether as regarded the Government and their supporters or hon. Members behind him. Nothing of the kind suggested was ever intended by anybody on the Government side of the House. They had strenuously resisted every Amendment which had been moved—and he thought most of them had come from the Opposition side of the House—that was intended to reduce the amount of the compensation. ["Hear, hear!"] At the same time they were not going to shut their eyes to an injustice if a clear case was made out. [*Cheers.*]

MR. BUXTON said the right hon. Gentleman had somewhat misunderstood him. Looking at the Amendment as it stood, and at what the right hon. Gentleman had said about it, it appeared to tend in the direction of reducing the compensation. The Government had been very strong in reference to things of that sort, and what he had said was only in order to assure the Government of their support. [*Ministerial laughter and cheers.*]

*MR. J. WILSON (Durham, Mid) had no wish to speak for all hon. Members on that side—[*laughter*]—but he thought he could speak for four or five. His opinion was that to accept this Amendment would be to open the door to very serious complications. There was hardly a family in the country that the change would not apply to. He appealed to the Government not to depart from the principle of a stated money payment. It was all very well to put a simple case like that mentioned by the Mover of the Amendment, but it was getting in the thin end of the wedge; it was an interference with the principle of the Bill which should be avoided.

MR. STUART-WORTLEY (Sheffield, Hallam) said unreasonable things had been said about the Government. The Colonial Secretary had promised to be most careful in safeguarding genuine losers by a man's death. But was it to be supposed that an able-bodied man should be the gainer by the death of his child?

MR. JOHN BURNS (Battersea) said the other night the hon. Member for the Kilmarnock Burghs expressed in better form the views which the hon. Member for St. Helen's had put in what he might term a harsh and brutal way. The result was that the hon. Member for the Kilmarnock Burghs saw that the Amendment of a similar character which he had put down would do much harm if pressed, and consequently he withdrew it. Let them suppose the case of a family in which there was a lad apprenticed as a carpenter or engineer. From 19 to 21 he would earn 8s. or 10s. per week. The father was killed just as the lad at 21 jumped into the position of a journeyman with a wage of 30s., 35s., or £2 a week. What would happen if the hon. Member for St. Helen's Amendment were law? Compensation would be given to some extent dependent on the lad's wages as an apprentice, with the result that they would get only £50 or £60, both for the lad and for his mother, whom he intended to keep perhaps for four or five years. Now it was agreed that in establishing a minimum of £150 in all cases, they would lay down a simple general rule, but it would be most unfair to accept an Amendment that would press upon sons who were helping to maintain their mothers a pecuniary disqualification, and upon widows an obligation that ought not to be imposed. He would ask the Colonial Secretary to have the Bill and nothing but the Bill, and to be as generous towards the dependants of a man who had been killed, and who were receiving low wages as he had been to other people.

MR. CRIPPS said the hon. Member for Battersea had obviously misunderstood the matter. There was no tendency, on that side of the House at any rate, to cut down fair compensation, although they did want to see the principle of the Bill justly applied. What the hon. Member referred to would not be dealt with by the Amendment. The Amendment referred to a case in which the person killed was a child earning small wages; and, as it had been put by an hon. Member on his own side of the House, was it a fair principle that an able-bodied man should get a large sum in compensation owing merely to the death of his child? He might be dependent on that child's wages to a very small extent indeed. The child might be earning 5s. or 6s. a week, and the father only getting an advantage perhaps of 6d. a week or some other very small sum; and if the child happened to be killed, was the father under the circumstances to be paid the minimum of £150? That was the simple point, but it was not the point raised by the hon. Member for Battersea.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE pointed out that the real difficulty arose on the construction of the words put into the Bill that afternoon—"wholly or in part dependent on the earnings of the workman at the time." The construction of the word "dependent" in that connection would really decide the case whether contributions were to be made or not. Who was or who was not dependent on the earnings would be a question to be decided by the arbitrator. The mere fact that a deceased child contributed something to the general stock—that something being merely enough to make up for the deceased child's own maintenance would not make the parents and other members of the family dependent upon the child. He submitted that the proper way of dealing with this question was to leave it to the arbitrator to decide who was dependent and who was not dependent on the earnings of the deceased. ["Hear, hear!"]

MR. PARKER SMITH (Lanark, Partick) said it was perfectly true that the Amendment depended on the words introduced just now—"in part dependent." It was an explanation of those words. He took it that with the definition of "dependent" here given, a father would certainly be "in part dependent" on a child earning 4s. a week, and bringing it in as part of the family income.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: It provides for the child's own maintenance.

MR. PARKER SMITH would be greatly surprised if any arbitrator would say that in such a case a father was not partly dependent on the child killed. Take another case, that of a person who was "in part dependent" in the sense that half-a-dozen sons were contributing a couple of shillings a week each to the support of their father. If the father was to get the minimum of £150 when one of the sons was killed, he would be absolutely better off than if the son had lived all the time. He would remind hon. Members that the principle to which the Government had promised favourable consideration was the principle of Lord Campbell's Act, which had been acted upon for fifty years. The only necessity for explaining it arose from the fact of there being a minimum sum fixed by the Bill. Under Lord Campbell's Act the Court was bound to consider how much the dependant received from the deceased. If the loss sustained by the death was small, the damages given by the jury were small. If there was not the minimum of £150, and the arbitrators were free to reduce the amount as much as the necessities and the justice of the case required, there would be no need for the Amendment.

Mr. J. W. LOGAN (Leicester, Harborough) thought the workman under the circumstances would suffer great hardship. It was intolerable that they should be left dependent in this way.

Mr. SETON-KARR objected to leaving this matter to the discretion of the arbitrator. In reply to observations from the other side, he begged to say he had no idea of reducing the amount to be given as compensation under the Bill. He absolutely repudiated any accusation of the kind. He understood that the Government accepted the principle of the Amendment.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN: No, Sir. What I said was that I thought, if there was a case of hardship made out, we should have to consider how it would be possible to meet it.

Mr. SETON-KARR said he understood that the case was one that would be considered by Her Majesty's Government, and that they would proceed to deal with it. The statement just made by the right hon. Gentleman was not quite satisfactory. Still, he should withdraw his Amendment.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN said he did not wish to have any misunderstanding. If the hon. Member was not satisfied with his statement, then he hoped he would go to a Division.

Mr. S. WOODS (Essex, Walthamstow) agreed that if any attempt were made to cut down the compensation that would be given under the Bill, serious difficulties would arise, and he hoped that the Government, in considering the matter, would bear that in mind.

Mr. SETON-KARR said that as the matter would be brought up again on the Report stage he would rest satisfied with what the right hon. Gentleman had said, and withdraw the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN moved, in Section (4), to leave out the words, "If any of the dependants is an infant, his share of compensation may," and to insert the words, "The sum allotted as compensation to any dependant." The right hon. Gentleman explained that his object was to give a wider discretion to the arbitrator than he would otherwise have under the Bill.

*Mr. J. WILSON (Durham, Mid) inquired whether the word "arbitrator" would include "committee?"

Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY explained that he had given notice of an Amendment to make it read "committee or arbitrator."

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. PARKER SMITH moved in Section (4), after the word "invested," to insert the words "or otherwise applied."

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. THOMAS BURT (Morpeth) moved at the end of Section (4) to insert—

"(1) The arbitrator may order any sum awarded as compensation, in case of the death of a workman from any injury sustained by him, and payable to or for the benefit of any infant or person under disability, to be invested in whole or in part in the Post Office Savings Bank by the Registrar of the County Court in his name as Registrar.

"(2) Any sum so ordered to be invested may be accepted by the Postmaster General as a deposit in the name of the registrar as such, and the provisions of any statute or regulations respecting the limits of deposits in savings banks, and the declaration to be made by a depositor, shall not apply to such sums.

"(3) No part of any money invested in the name of the Registrar of any County Court in the Post Office Savings Bank under this Act shall be paid out to any Registrar, except upon authority addressed to the Postmaster General by the Treasury or by the Judge.

"(4) Any person deriving any benefit under any moneys paid into a Post Office Savings Bank under the provisions of this Act, may nevertheless open an account in a Post Office Savings Bank or in any other savings bank in his own name, without being liable to any penalties imposed by any statute or regulations in respect of the opening of accounts in two savings banks, or of two accounts in the same savings bank."

Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY remarked that these words were taken from the Bill of 1893. They were arranged in concert with the Post Office, and he was quite willing to accept them with a verbal alteration. He moved to amend the proposed Amendment, by omitting all the words from the commencement to the word "disability" in Sub-section (1), and to insert instead thereof the words—

"Any sum ordered by the Committee or the arbitrator to be invested may be ordered."

Amendment to the proposed Amendment agreed to.

Amendment, as amended, agreed to.

Sir ALFRED HICKMAN (Wolverhampton, W.) moved in Section (5) to leave out the words "at intervals of not less than three months." He thought it only reasonable that there should be a less period of revision than three months.

Mr. J. A. PEASE said he had an Amendment on the Paper suggesting that the period should be 14 days, and he strongly pressed, in the interests of both employers and employed, that they should at reasonable intervals be able to have a man examined. If a workman, for instance, found that he had not recovered as soon as the doctors had anticipated, he ought to be able to appeal for a further examination in order that he might obtain further pecuniary assistance from the employer. On the other hand, the employer might find that a workman would recover sooner than was anticipated, and he in turn ought to be able to ask for another examination, as the workman might be capable of performing his work.

Mr. C. B. RENSHAW (Renfrew, W.) hoped the Government would give favourable consideration to this Amendment, or else to that suggested by the hon. Member who had last spoken. The Colonial Secretary stated the other day that the duration of an accident did not as a rule exceed four or five weeks. But under the provisions of the Bill as it stood the payment would have to be continued during the whole of the three months, and there was, apparently, nothing which would give rise to a revision of the terms in regard to the weekly payment until after the expiration of the first three months. He hoped the limit would be taken out altogether, or that the fourteen days suggested by the previous speaker would be agreed to.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL did not think it necessary to keep the words in the Bill, and if they were omitted in all probability the good feeling of the parties would prevent any abuse by unnecessary revision. He did not see much difference between "less than 14 days" or no interval at all, but he thought that some less period than three months might prove acceptable.

*Mr. J. WILSON (Durham, Mid) hoped the Government would retain the period of three months. The fact that the duration of an accident was only four or five weeks proved that the men did not malinger or remain on the funds longer than was necessary. From whom was this inquiry to come? The men had proved their willingness to work by only remaining at home on an average of three or four, or four or five weeks. They had inducements to remain on the funds if they wanted to malinger. A very large number of men in the two northern counties were not only on the permanent relief societies, but were also members of the friendly societies, and they had likewise the extra inducement, if they wanted to malinger, of 5s. a week which was now paid by the employers. This might be a matter of opinion, but in the two northern counties if an injured man desired to make the duration of the compensation longer than it should be, he had now every inducement to do so, because he received 5s. from the relief fund, 5s. from the employer, and 10s. from his friendly society. For the first four or five weeks he would be receiving £1 a week. He asserted that if this time were reduced, it would open an avenue to a large amount of irritation, and would not tend to create good feeling or to smooth the working of the Bill. ["Hear, hear!"]

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN said he believed that the Amendment was more in the interest of the workman than of the employer. In the first place, as a rule the employer would not adopt proceedings amounting to persecution, by bringing a poor injured workman before the arbitrator. The only object an employer could have in doing so was that if he was clearly of opinion or had received evidence which showed the condition of the workman to have materially changed, he might have the matter reviewed in that light. But let them take the case of the workman. Suppose he had met with an accident, and had gone before an arbitrator, who fixed the duration of the compensation at three weeks and the amount at 5s. As the Bill now stood, that could not be altered, and if the workman, instead of getting well at the end of three weeks, found himself worse, he would have to wait for three months in order to get his case reviewed.

*Mr. J. WILSON (Durham, Mid): Are we to understand that it is within the competency of the arbitrator to fix the time that a man is to remain on compensation?

MR. CHAMBERLAIN: Yes. Sub-section (3) of Clause 1, which we have already passed, says that the matters to be referred to the arbitrator are, amongst other things, "as to the amount or duration of the compensation under this Act."

SIR FRANCIS EVANS (Southampton) submitted that that did not mean that the arbitrator had to fix the duration of the payment. It was quite impossible for the arbitrator to fix the duration of the compensation at three or four weeks. ["Hear, hear!"]

MR. CHAMBERLAIN said he was not a lawyer, and he would leave the true interpretation of that. Setting that aside, however, there still would remain the case of the workman who at the expiry of three weeks found his condition much worse, by which he would become entitled to 10s. or 15s. instead of the 5s. he had been receiving. He would have to go on taking the inferior compensation.

MR. G. C. T. BARTLEY (Islington, N.) said that no friendly society would allow three months to run absolutely without any reconsideration, and what was settled by the workmen themselves in the case of their friendly societies would be a fair rule here. ["Hear, hear!"]

MR. J. W. WILSON (Worcestershire, N.) said that the period of three months would only come in in cases where very long disablement resulted. He thought it was in the interest of the workman as well as the employer that this period should not be inserted. Of course, the employer had the remedy of sending word to the workman that if he did not come back to work on such a day he would not be allowed to come at all, but that was not a system anyone would wish to see put in force.

MR. CRIPPS contended that there ought to be a power of fairly adjusting the conditions from time to time. He thought the Amendment was well justified.

SIR R. REID asked whether there was any provision in the Bill under which the duration of the period over which the compensation was payable could be reviewed?

SIR F. EVANS said that the duration of the period could only be reviewed from time to time. It could not be fixed beforehand.

*MR. J. WILSON (Durham, Mid) said he would be satisfied if the Colonial Secretary would explain what he meant by saying that the arbitrator had power to fix the duration of the compensation.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN said that the arbitrator had power to limit the duration of compensation to the period of incapacity.

Amendment agreed to.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN moved, at the end of Section (4), to add:—

> "Where any weekly payment has been continued for not less than 12 months the liability therefor may, on the application of either the workman or the employer, be redeemed by the payment of a lump sum, to be settled by arbitration under this Act, but not exceeding 312 times the weekly payment payable at the date of the application."

He said this was a very important Amendment, but the principle had been discussed at very considerable length in other Amendments, and he hoped that a decision might be come to upon it without lengthened discussion. This was another of those Amendments which he proposed, confidently believing them to be in the interest both of the employer and the workman. It had been pointed out that in the case of lengthened disability there would be very great inconvenience in winding up an estate if it was burdened with this compensation. The same thing applied in a minor degree to change of residence, transfer of business, and other changes. Further, still speaking from the point of view of the employer, a fixed scale of compensation in certain cases would materially affect the rates of insurance, and as there must be insurance under the Bill, all would wish it should be as cheap as possible. He now came to the workman. The Amendment was to his interest, because, to a certain extent, it would increase his security. He would be able to make this demand, and, in many cases, probably, would be able to obtain a lump sum, thereby closing the transaction, instead of being dependent on the solvency of his employer. Another advantage was to be found in connection with the common occurrence of the workman changing his occupation or his residence after the accident. For instance, a man in Birmingham might wish to go to Leicester. It would be an additional complication for the workman to have to make all the arrangements for receiving his pension. It was all very well to say it might be paid to his personal representative, but the moment an employer lost sight of a workman, he might wish to have his case reviewed, and that might give rise to great complications. There were also many cases in which the workman could better invest the money than in an annuity. There were cases in which the workman could use to very great advantage a small capital, and could make from it a much larger income than by investing it in an annuity. There was only one objection to the Amendment, and that was that if a lump sum were paid to the injured workman he might squander it. Of course there was a possibility of that, but after all they could not keep the working class entirely in leading-strings. On the whole, he was inclined to think the working classes showed a considerable amount of common sense in connection with any little property that came to them. There were people of weak mind who did misuse opportunities of that kind, but on the whole he thought they must put aside that as being a conclusive objection. On the other hand, the arguments in favour of giving an option were so great that they entirely outweighed that objection. The Government did not think it necessary to commute in cases of minor incapacity. If the incapacity did not last for more than 12 months no commutation was possible. In the case of an accident which led to a long illness the Government proposed that the injured man should have a weekly payment for twelve months, and after that the payments might be redeemed by a lump sum equivalent to six years' wages. He moved the Amendment.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE said that with regard to the payment of a lump sum the Amendment was not as bad as the Attorney General had led them to expect it would be. The Amendment might be worse, but such as it was from the point of view of members representing the workmen, they disliked the Amendment and objected to it. After the twelve months the employer might make an application against the working man, and the application would be treated only as a question whether it was a case for higher compensation or not, and would be settled against the working man entirely against his will. The objections to the Amendment involved objections to the whole principle of the Bill. The Measure had been limited to certain trades, and he was unable to support an Amendment to include other trades because of the difficulty of continuing payment in the case of the employers who might be unable to pay in the circumstances which had been discussed. But he hoped that Parliament having gone so far in the direction of compensation would ultimately pass a Bill embracing all trades. But did not the adoption of the six years' principle make it more difficult? To limit the Bill to certain trades was a limitation which could be got rid of; other trades could be included, but he was afraid a six years' limitation would be difficult to get rid of. This was his main objection to the Amendment.

Mr. Chamberlain.

MR. J. WILSON (Falkirk Burghs) agreed with the Colonial Secretary when he said that this was one of the most important of the Amendments yet proposed. He entirely supported the principle of redemption of the weekly payment, and that not in the interests of the employer alone, but much more so of the workmen. He was a mine owner, and also represented a very large mining constituency, and he would have no hesitation whatever in going down to that constituency and supporting the principle of this Amendment. The Colonial Secretary had given so clearly and lucidly the reason for both employer and workman being in favour of it that there was little left to say in that form except that in case of a mine owner whose colliery gets exhausted, and came to an end, it was of importance that he should be able to settle the weekly claims of his injured workmen, and in case of workmen wishing to emigrate or to start business in any way, it was of still greater importance that he should have the sum. He thought, however, the Colonial Secretary, if he looked at his own Amendment at the foot of page, would find that it met the difficulty suggested by the hon. Member for the Forest of Dean, viz., that the employer may force the workman to accept. For these reasons he trusted that the Colonial Secretary would embody in his Amendment the terms of men which had been very carefully thought over and adjusted.

Mr. R. B. HALDANE (Haddington) admitted that commutation might be advantageous. The words were, "not exceding 312 times the weekly payment payable at the date of application." This meant that the Colonial Secretary had gone back to the most objectionable limitation of the Employers' Liability Act, 1880. This was inconsistent with the principle of the present Bill, by which a distinction was drawn between the amount of compensation paid to the dependants of a dead man and that paid to a living man who was incapacitated. To the dependants would be given a lump sum, probably of a less amount than might be reached in the case of a living man. Money paid to dependants would be used by them, but in the case of a man who might be hopelessly incapacitated, no longer able to earn anything, the Colonial Secretary differentiated this case from the other, and gave the workman half his wages for the term of his life. It might be that only in this way could adequate compensation be made. What was the use of giving a man a lump sum which did not nearly produce an equivalent of what was given in case of incapacity. It seemed to him that the proposal of the Colonial Secretary was going back on the wise and generous principle of his Bill. He recognised that the right hon. Gentleman was in an extremely difficult position—he had fought this Bill in the interests of the workmen against a great deal of opposition on his own side. ["Hear, hear!"] They appreciated what he had done, but he was bound to say that when he had yielded, it had geneally been to the pressure of those who sat upon his own side of the House. [*Ministerial laughter.*] He was speaking of the changes which had been made in the Bill. They preferred the original conception of this Bill, which, with all its defects, was in many respects a most admirable Measure, to the alterations which had been made in it.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN: I cannot accept the compliments of the hon. and learned Gentlemen, because they are compliments to which I am not in the slightest degree entitled. He represents me apparently as a good man struggling with adversity—the adversity coming from these Benches—and encouraged by the cheers and support of hon. Members on the other side. That I daresay might be a possible position, but it certainly is not the one which I have occupied in the course of the proceedings on this Bill. No support has been warmer, more entire, more thorough than that which the Government have received from their own supporters. There have, of course, been Members of our Party who have taken a different view, and who have represented a particular interest; but certainly as a party it is quite impossible for any Government to have had a warmer or more satisfactory support. I do not accuse hon. Gentlemen opposite of acting as an Opposition as a whole—that is to say, as being opposed to this Bill—["hear, hear!"]—although certainly their welcome on its first introduction was anything but encouraging. [*Ministerial laughter.*] I am glad to say that the more they see of the Bill the better they seem to like it. I am much obliged to them for all the support they have given it, but I cannot allow them to go to the country and represent themselves as being the real supporters of this Bill as against a hostile Government Party. [*Cheers.*]

Sir R. REID: Mr. Lowther, I want to speak about this Amendment. [*Loud laughter.*] He pointed out that, although it was perfectly true that by the terms of the Bill workmen could not as a general rule contract themselves out of the Bill, yet when the award had been made there was nothing to prevent the workman and the employer from compounding by mutual agreement either to abandon the privileges or to commute them for a lump sum. He did not, therefore, think that there was very much weight to be attached to the argument as to convenience. Another point was that it was most important that the insurance should be facilitated, all the more so because a sort of charge or lien had been given to the workmen over the sum of money that was due from the insurance company. He wanted to see this insurance very much encouraged. If the premium would be very different that was the measure of the disadvantage which the workman suffered from. ["Hear, hear!"]

MR. CHAMBERLAIN said the moment they came to the element of additional uncertainty the premium went up very much. He had seen the manager of one of the greatest insurance corporations on the subject, and had been surprised at the large difference which took place. It was not a difference which could be represented by the difference in payment, but was due to the fears and uncertainties.

SIR R. REID thought that the difference would be partly due to the element of uncertainty, but at the same time a good part would be due to the difference in the benefit. Was it not true that the employer under this Amendment would always be able after the first year to fall back on the old limitation under the Employers' Liability Act? To his mind such considerations outweighed even the consideration of insurance, and he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would consider the matter.

*COLONEL MILWARD (Stratford-upon-Avon) referred to the incidence of the weekly payments upon the employer. He ventured, he said, to address the House on behalf of the small manufacturers, as he had already done on behalf of the workshops. In neither case was he interested personally, because so far as he was concerned he did not in the least fear the Bill in any way whatever. But in his constituency there were a large number of very small manufacturers who had water mills, steam mills, or perhaps only a gas engine, and whose yearly income did not exceed £70 or £100. Under this Bill as it stood at present, at the end of the first year the employer was compelled to commutate the payments which he was to make. To commute a weekly payment, say, of 15s., would mean £240, and there were many employers who could not possibly raise that amount. Then at the end of the second year an employer could commutate it, he understood, for £200, and that was equally impossible for him. He was speaking in the interests of a large class of employers whom such an amount would ruin altogether. They would be tieing round their necks a log which would hamper them all their lives. There was some limit to which the weekly payments, too, should extend, for if a small employer with an income of £70 or £100 a year had a charge of 15s. a week on his income, may be for the whole of his life, he would be simply dragged down. Then there was another principle that when the time had come where this liability upon the employer had ceased, the Poor Law might take the place. That was to say they might say to the employer after six or seven years' payments, that as the accident was none of his doing, and arose from the act of God—as a good many accidents did arise—the liability of the employer should cease, and if necessary be thrown upon the State. He meant that at the end of that time the Board of Guardians should take up the liability for the pension. He believed what he said was felt by a great many employers on that side of the House, who were large employers, and in whose interests he was not speaking. In his constituency there were many small employers upon whom a liability of this sort for the whole of their lives meant ruin. He suggested, therefore, to those who were in charge of the Bill that this Amendment should be enlarged so that there should be a limit of time beyond which the liability for these weekly payments should not extend.

On the return of the CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS, after the usual interval,

MR. J. W. LOGAN was of opinion that there was a great deal to be said for the principle of this Amendment, both from the point of view of the employer and of the workman. It would certainly facilitate the process of insurance. Many small employers would find a difficulty in insuring against accidents under the Bill. Being engaged himself in a very risky and dangerous business, he had already approached the insurance companies himself, and he found that the premiums they asked for insuring railway contractors under this Bill were very heavy. Unless small employers could insure at a reasonable price, they would run the risks and liabilities under this Bill, and to prevent possible loss to the workman he should like to se the facilities for insurance increased as much as possible. But, while he was in favour of the principle of the Amendment, he could not support it in its present form.

MR. G. WHITELEY (Stockport) thought this was one of the most excellent and desirable Amendments which had yet been proposed to the Bill, in the interests alike of employers and employed. What an employer would object to was not being cast in damages, but that his liability should be undetermined and continue perhaps during the whole period he worked his business, or possibly his successors as well. It would hamper him in effecting an insurance, with the management and conduct of the business, and more especially if he intended to dispose of it, it would be a serious matter to deal with. But the desirability of the Amendment was shown chiefly from the workman's point of view. Take the case of a workman in a cotton factory. As was well known, the cotton trade was now in a "parlous state." Suppose the case of a cotton operative, who had received compensation payable for a lifetime. The man had no guarantee whatever of the continuance of that compensation. He might, from the bankruptcy of his employer, find himself stranded. He believed the working classes throughout the kingdom would take immediate advantage of this power of commutation. They would say a "bird in the hand is worth two in the bush."

MR. PARKER SMITH said that he was glad the Government had accepted the principle of commutation in regard to accidents, but was somewhat disappointed that the terms of the Amendment were so large. As it was a fair average rule that three years' wages were about sufficient in case of death, so, in the same way, for any injury three years' wages ought to be enough. But by the Amendment a larger standard was taken. It was provided that no commutation could take place for a year after the date of the accident. He did not understand the object of the limitation, nor why the parties should be bound to wait for 12 months after the date of the accident before negotiating for commutation. In regard to permanent incapacity, again, it seemed a reasonable principle to fix a maximum just as in the case of death. In arranging the terms of commutation, the weekly payments made before commutation should be taken into account. He begged to move, as an Amendment to the Amendment, to leave out the words "has been continued for not less than 12 months" and insert the words "is current."

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL said that the Government could not assent to dispense with the preliminary period of weekly payments. The standard which they had fixed was fairly between the demands of the workmen and the employers.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. BAINBRIDGE (Lincoln, Gainsborough) supported the Amendment as tending to facilitate insurance. He had the best reason to fear that it would be almost impossible for the employer to obtain insurance unless a limit were placed to the liability for compensation. He thought, however, that the period after which the injury should be regarded as permanent would be better fixed at six months instead of 12. That was the period adopted by the Miners' Permanent Relief Society. He moved to leave out "twelve" and insert "six."

MR. CHAMBERLAIN said that the Government had considered this question most carefully, and had endeavoured to meet the conflicting views and interests. Their Amendment had not been put down hastily, and the Government must adhere to it.

*MR. J. WILSON (Durham, Mid) said that the period of six months adopted in the Permanent Relief Fund was for the purpose of increasing the weekly payment to the injured man. He was decidedly against this Amendment. Either the workman or the employer might institute proceedings for commutation. This offered a direct inducement to malingering; because the man who, at the end of 12 months, felt recovery near, would apply for commutation. The men who were permanently injured did not want commutation. It must not be forgotten that six years' payments was the maximum amount of commutation. The workmen, as a matter of fact, might get anything between one week's payment and 312 weeks' payment. Let the Government, if they desired to make the Amendment somewhat acceptable, fix the amount of commutation at 312 times of the weekly payments absolute. Even that sum would be too little. The statistics of the permanent relief funds of the country showed that the average duration of permanent incapacity was more than six years. For those reasons he was entirely against the Amendment.

*The CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS: The discussion has mainly had reference to the original Amendment. I think it would be best to decide the question before the Committee, which is the substitution of "six months" for "twelve months" in the Amendment.

Mr. J. W. WILSON hoped the Amendment to the Amendment would not be proceeded with.

Mr. BAINBRIDGE said that in view of the opinions which had been expressed he did not wish to press his Amendment.

Amendment to the proposed Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. JOHN BURNS said he was sorry that the Government, yielding to pressure not from the country, but within the House, had consented to place this, the greatest, blot upon the Bill. They would, by accepting this Amendment, in the interest of the mine owners, alienate the support of every workman who was otherwise inclined to accept the Bill. The Colonial Secretary said that the mine owners were more frightened than hurt by the Bill. He would tell the Government that the mine owners' bark was much worse than their bite; and if they had to choose between the support of the workmen by rejecting the Amendment, or the opposition of the employers if they refused to accept it, they should have pronounced against the selfish, narrow views that lay behind the Amendment. He ventured to assert that the Amendment would be an incentive to malingering. If a man sustained an injury that incapacitated him from work for six or eight months he would resort to all sorts of tricks and dodges to reach the commutation period of twelve months. On the other hand, the man who was seriously injured, and was laid up for twelve months, would prefer the regular weekly payment rather than accept commutation and invest the amount in a business for which he had neither the financial or the commercial ability to conduct. What would happen in the case of such a man? He would be compelled by the employer or by designing relatives who wanted the handling of the lump sum to accept commutation, say twelve or eighteen months of his weekly payments, and at the end, perhaps, of a year, all the money would be gone, and he would become a charge upon the rates or dependent upon his family. That was the experience of his own society, the Amalgamated Society of Engineers. The society gave a commutation of £100 in a case of partial or permanent incapacity. In ninety per cent. of those cases, the man, after eighteen months had elapsed from the time he had received the £100, was much worse off than before he had got the commutation allowance. If that were so in the case of the engineers, who were well organised and fairly intelligent men, surrounded by advisory and controlling influence, what would happen in the case of the stevedore, the dock labourer, the navvy, and the platelayer, whose commutation would, perhaps, not amount to more than £60 or £80? He hoped the Government would not accept the Colonial Secretary's Amendment. The Amendment of the Colonial Secretary destroyed the Bill; it made the Bill unpopular, and it deprived the Bill of all the generous attributes it had hitherto been supposed to have. The acceptance of the Amendment was nothing more nor less than a climbing down to a well-organised attempt to take the vitals out of the Bill. What was more, this was a log-rolling Amendment—an Amendment that had not got the country at its back; it was an Amendment that was the result of deputations to the Government of a few wealthy mine owners who had shown their generosity by subscribing £4,000 to the permanent relief fund to which the workmen subscribed £90,000. There was an impression gaining ground that if the Bill was not mutilated and weakened in the House of Commons the House of Lords would probably throw it out. [An hon Member: "Nothing of the kind."] The Government had encouraged the House of Lords to mutilate the Bill by accepting the suggestion of the coal and mining lords, the worst form of aristocracy. [*Cries of* "Oh, oh!"] If the Amendment were accepted he hoped, not so much that the Government would be punished, but that Tory and Liberal workmen would mark those Tory and Liberal mine owners who had prevented workmen when injured from receiving what they wanted—regular weekly compensation.

MR. STUART-WORTLEY hoped the Committee would take note of the hon. Member's statement that half of the working classes were malingerers.

MR. BURNS said that the only reference he made to malingering was to the effect that the Government would encourage it by their 12 months' condition. He did not say that half of the workmen of the country were malingerers; he did not believe that 1 per cent. were.

MR. STUART-WORTLEY said he was in perfect possession of what the hon. Member said, and he thought the working classes would say, in respect to the hon. Member, "Save us from our friends." ["Hear, hear!"] He did not believe that any working man ever expected that any Ministry would give him a weekly allowance for, possibly, 50 years, and he was persuaded that any politician who rushed forward and promised workmen such an allowance would be received with good-natured smiles rather than with anything else.

MR. W. ABRAHAM (Glamorganshire, Rhondda) said the working classes never asked for the Bill, but as it had been brought in they were entitled to ask that that should be given them which they had been led to expect. It was quite evident that if commutation were permitted the workmen would be deprived of many years' compensation. The acceptance of this Amendment was, in his opinion, a deception of the working men of the country. ["Hear, hear!"]

SIR FRANCIS EVANS said that this Amendment was so fraught with the possibility of evil to a number of people in this country that he was most anxious to draw the attention of the Committee and of the Attorney General to it. He did not know whether it had occurred to the Attorney General that, if the Amendment were carried in its present form, it would inevitably lead to the ruin of a great number of small employers. As he understood the Amendment, it meant that, if a workman had been injured, after he had received a weekly payment for 12 months, he had a right to go to the arbitrator and claim from the person who made these weekly payments commutation at the rate of 312 times the weekly payments.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: At a rate not exceeding that, but of course the arbitrator will have to consider whether he is permanently injured or not.

SIR F. EVANS: My point is that he can insist on the commutation.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: If he is permanently injured.

SIR F. EVANS said that to large employers that did not matter. They could all afford to make provision for that kind of case, but with small employers it was not possible to do so. Take the case of a man—and it was a very frequent case in this country—whose income, after he had paid the workers in his employ, did not exceed £100 or £120 a year. He paid his men, say, £1 a week. There came an accident, and under the Bill he had to pay that man 10s. a week, or £26 a year. At the end of the year the workman came forward and claimed commutation, which would be six times £26, or £156. That was a sum entirely beyond the means of the class of employers in whose interests he was speaking particularly. He thought some words should be inserted making the commutation subject to the arbitrator's consent, so that he might act the part of a Judge and say this was a case in which he would not enforce it. In fixing a time of trial the Government had done a benefit to the employers, because they had thereby lessened the premium on insurance. He was at issue entirely with the hon. Member for Battersea, and the hon. Member for the Rhondda Valley. If their views were carried out they would be directly against the labour interests of the country. A labourer met with an accident and was allowed 10s. or 15s. a week, but there was no provision in the Bill for that charge being put upon the property of the person paying it. Take the case of a colliery. An explosion occurred, and there were, say, five or six men injured. The owner of the colliery could not face the commutation. He sold his colliery, he parted with the property, and when he had got the money he could go away. Where was the security then for the weekly payments? It was all gone. There was no security in the Bill for the payments which were to be made under it; and if the Government wanted to make the Bill effective they must either make them a charge in some way or they must do as they were doing now —they must commute the payments into a sum which was paid over to a third party. Then the workman got his security, and the Bill would become effective as a protection to the men injured. If they passed the Amendment as it was they would inevitably force a very large number of small employers into selling their business, and, in fact, ruin them, and he thought it would be covered entirely if the Government could see their way to give to the arbitrator before whom the question came the right to refuse to give a price at all.

Mr. B. PICKARD (York, W. R., Normanton) said he was surprised at hon. Members on both sides of the House speaking so confidently as to what colliery owners would do in the future if this Bill came into force. He was surprised that the colliery owners had so many resources in the way of avoiding payments under the Bill when it became an Act of Parliament. The hon. Member for Southampton said that he, as a colliery proprietor, would sell his colliery.

Sir F. EVANS said he only gave a colliery as an illustration. He was not a colliery owner. He was referring to small employers, and gave a colliery as an instance of what might be done.

Mr. PICKARD said the colliery owners had used arguments which the Colonial Secretary in the crushing reply he gave to the hon. Member for Gainsborough, completely disposed of, showing that their exaggerated fears were unfounded. He and his hon. Friends from South Wales and Durham knew the colliery owners well, and did not think them quite as bad as they were painted. They did not believe that they would do everything that was being threatened in their name. Hon. Members had been talking about the Permanent Relief Funds. He found that in Yorkshire last year that great fund had the noble contribution from the wealthy employers of £447. He could quite understand, therefore, that they were afraid of this Bill. When they came here and talked about what they had done in the past and what they expected to do in the future, and when they found that £447 represented the whole of their contributions to the Yorkshire Permanent Relief Fund, he felt ashamed for people in that House who went to Lancashire and Cheshire, to Northumberland and to Durham, for arguments when they had no arguments in their own bosoms to establish what they advanced here. In Yorkshire, since the year 1887 the sum of £188,000 had been paid in relief, and the employers had paid about £10,000. That was a fact which ought to be stated in that House, and should be well understood. He wished to say further, with regard to this Amendment, that he thought it would work injuriously. It had been stated by the Colonial Secretary it might fix probably a 5s. weekly allowance for a man who might be totally incapacitated, and that was to be the sum and substance of what he was to receive from the owners under this Bill. What did that amount to? Supposing under this Amendment his compensation was commuted and he was given the full benefit of the six years, it would amount to this, that the man would be paid £78. Was that worth having? They were told the other night by the Colonial Secretary that every young woman and girl at the pit bank, and every man underneath would get £150 certain. Under this commutation arrangement, all that was knocked on the head. As he understood it the working men of this country would have no cause to thank the Government or that House if the Amendment were allowed to be put on the Statute-book. They did not ask for the Bill. They were promised the Bill; and he said from the commencement—and, therefore, he had nothing to retract—he told the men whom he represented that he thought the Bill was a fair attempt to do a good thing for the workmen; and he was prepared to come there, not to attack the Bill, not to make speeches, but if he found the Government were prepared to carry this Bill in its integrity, he was prepared to support it. Formal Amendments here and there would no doubt have to be made, but he was prepared to suggest, if he did suggest, to the 300,000 union men whom he represented that they might accept this Bill as an instalment—[*cries of* "Oh!" *and laughter*]—that future Governments would develop—["hear, hear!"]—and with all its infirmities he was quite prepared to advise his friends and colleagues to accept the Bill. What did he find? Why, on the Second Reading—and it should be clearly understood that it was not from the Opposition side of the House but from the Government side—that there came an Amendment—it was moved by the hon. Member for Derby—which, if it could have been carried, would have destroyed the Bill.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS: Order, order! I must ask the hon. Member to confine himself a little more closely to the question raised by the Amendment.

MR. PICKARD apologised. At the same time he wished to remind the Chairman that the Question had been referred to this afternoon, with regard to whether the Bill was asked for and who promised it. ["Order!"] He had been in the House all the time, and he had heard most of the Debate, and hon. Members, including the Colonial Secretary and the hon. Member for Dumfries—

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS: Order!

MR. PICKARD had simply wished to enjoy the same privilege which other hon. Gentlemen had indulged in. However, he would not pursue that line. ["Hear, hear!"] He only wished to say that in his judgment if the Amendment was placed on the Statute Book they would do a great injustice to the workmen of this country. ["Hear, hear!"] Talk about malingerers. Well, he supposed there were malingerers in every class of society. Walk about the streets of London and they would see a host of them, and if they went into other places he was certain they were to be found there also. [*A laugh.*] The miners as a class were not malingerers. He agreed with the hon. Member for Battersea that there were not one per cent., and if there were they would be found out by their fellow workmen and would be treated in a drastic manner. He did not think the Amendment would get rid of malingering. He was certain that it would not give the compensation Government intended when they drafted the Bill. He hoped that the influence of the coal owners outside the House and the deputations which had met the Colonial Secretary privately and confidentially would not induce the Government to put into the Bill Amendments that would destroy it in its working out. If, however, the Government did press it and carry it by a majority he hoped they would take time and consider whether on the Report stage they could not make the arrangement for commutation one of a mutual character, so that the men if they must have it might have the pill gilded before they swallowed it.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL thought he could, if time permitted, answer a good many of the arguments that had been used. But he would venture to make an appeal to the Committee. This Amendment had been under discussion three hours. He quite agreed that there had been a marked difference of opinion between certain Members of the House and others with regard to the Amendment, but he hoped they might now proceed to a Division. There were very few points left, and if they could complete the Committee stage, so that the Bill might be studied during the Recess, it would be an advantage. He did not want to prevent discussion, yet he hoped they would get on with this Amendment.

MR. W. A. McARTHUR (Cornwall, St. Austell) would only occupy the House a moment. He wanted to explain the motives which would guide him in voting against the Amendment of the Colonial Secretary. He had only refrained from voting against the Second Reading of the Bill on the ground that it appeared to him totally impossible that the Bill could stop where it was. It appeared to him absolutely certain that the Bill must lead to a system of State insurance. He might say that he had no personal interest in the Bill, having no body of men in his employ. He should feel compelled to oppose the Amendment of the Colonial Secretary.

MR. BURT rose merely to associate himself with his hon. Friend.

MR. MARK OLDROYD (Dewsbury) thought that the effect of the Amendment would be to take the clause out of the Bill and make it inoperative as to the disabled soldiers of the Army. He said that he wished only to make one remark, and would endeavour to speak on behalf of the workmen whose feelings he understood. They objected altogether to be dependent on charity, and so far as he knew they were anxious to be removed from the irritating effect of having to depend on exceptional assistance under afflictions of that kind. If the Amendment were adopted it would after seven years leave the men who were permanently disabled without resource of any kind. ["Hear, hear!"]

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS understood that the object of the Bill was to keep the injured man out of the workhouse.

If a man was in receipt of 18s. a week and was permanently disabled it stood to reason that an employer would try to commute that sum. The most a man could get was £150, and if he invested that it would amount to about 2s. 4d. a week. He believed the Amendment would defeat the object of the Bill.

Mr. W. ALLAN (Gateshead) observed that the Colonial Secretary in all his speeches had always insisted on the fairness, the justice, and the necessity of this Measure. But this Amendment contained a great deal of injustice and one-sidedness. The Amendment was not honestly worded. It was all one-sided. He could have understood it had it read like this:—

> "Where any weekly payment has been continued for not less than twelve months the liability therefor may, on the *mutual* application of either the workman or the employer, be redeemed by the payment of a lump sum, to be settled by arbitration under this Act, but not exceeding 312 times the weekly payment payable at the date of the application."

But the way the Amendment was worded left the workman no chance. The right hon. Gentleman had put an Amendment into the Bill which took away the mutuality, and which gave the workman no chance, but compelled him to do something which might be against his interest or that of his family. Was that fair? That was not the right hon. Gentleman's intention, he was sure, when he introduced the Bill, and therefore he would be well advised if he would insert the words "mutual application" in the Amendment, which would then give the workman a chance, and remove a great injustice.

Mr. ALBERT SPICER (Monmouth Boroughs), as one who had said he would do nothing whatever that would detract from the value of the Bill, felt very strongly that this Amendment would take away its benefits, and he protested against it because it seemed to him to have been conceived in the interest of a limited class. After all, it was against the policy that the general employers of the country adopted to-day. Nearly every Member of the House was an employer in one form or another, and he ventured to say he was not in the habit of carrying out in his daily practice the principle that was laid down in this Amendment. It would be bad for the workman, and it would also be bad for the employer. The ordinary working man in receipt of weekly wages was not able to make the best use of a commuted sum, and there was not a Member of that House, whether in his private life or business, or professional life, who would carry out in his daily life what this Amendment was proposing. The working men were looking forward for a weekly allowance, and at the end of 12 months to make it possible only to have a commuted sum would not only cause great disappointment, but it would be unjust to the working men as a whole, and it would not be in harmony with the system that each one adopted in his own life.

Mr. T. P. WHITTAKER (York, W.R., Spen Valley) said it seemed to him only reasonable that both the workman and employer should have the opportunity of commuting the payment if they wished to do so. The only objection to the Amendment was the fixing of a limit of six years. Why fix a limit at all? Why not allow a man to have the full value of his allowance? Suppose a man had been permanently injured so as to prevent him working; he would be in a condition that he might live for many years, and to limit such a man to six years' value of the weekly payments would be to deprive him of the greater part of the value of the allowance. He thought the arbitrator should be left to fix the amount without any limit whatever in the Bill, deciding in each individual case what should be the capital value of the allowance, and then there would be no objection to the Amendment. The limit could only have been introduced in the interests of the employers, to enable them to get out cheaply, for there was no limit the other way. He agreed that the Amendment as it stood was a disastrous one to the Bill, but if the limit was struck out then the Amendment was one which ought to be introduced.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN had no idea how perfect the Bill was when it was introduced. He admitted that this was a very difficult and complicated subject, and he thought it quite possible there were points of view from which Amendments might be suggested which the Government might accept. In the course of the discussion, however, he had discovered that, whenever an Amendment was accepted by the Government, from some quarter or another it was stated that it would absolutely destroy the value of the Bill. [*Laughter.*] That was the case now, but he should have been more impressed by it if he had not heard it so often. As to this Amendment, he would say that before he had the honour of a seat in that House, he was largely engaged in industrial undertakings, and it was always to him a most pleasant recollection that in the course of his industrial experience he was brought into intimate association with a great number of working men. He was happy to say that that association had been continued in many cases down to the present day. ["Hear, hear!"] He sat for a working class constituency, and, speaking with that experience, he said he was perfectly satisfied to take this Amendment to any platform in the country and to any meeting in which working men were in a majority, and he was convinced they would prefer that there should be this option of commutation. ["Hear, hear!"] The ordinary working man might be ready to accept a permanent annuity or payment during incapacity, but he would desire to have the option of commuting that payment by a lump sum if he believed, as he would believe in a great number of cases, that his interest was concerned in accepting a lump sum in preference to a weekly payment. The Government had given him that option. They had given the same option to the workman as to the employer, and it was his firm conviction that for one case in which the employer asked for this option there would be a hundred cases of the workman asking for it. ["Hear, hear!"]

*Mr. J. WILSON (Durham, Mid) observed that, as he understood the word "option," it implied a right to choose or refuse, but if a man had no right to choose then there was no option in it. He submitted that the Amendment gave no option to the workman. The workman should have the right to refuse the commutation. Therefore, he would ask the right hon. Gentleman to put the word "option" in and leave it in reality to the option of the workman.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN said the Amendment as it stood was a perfect option. What the hon. Member asked for was a double option. At present, what was proposed to be conferred was an absolutely mutual option; but the hon. Gentleman asked the Government to add to that an option of refusal. Of course, if the Government agreed to that proposal, that option must also be mutual—["hear, hear!"]—and the employer also be given the right to refuse. He believed that the large majority of the working classes would decline to accept a double option of that sort, because that would place them absolutely under the control of the employer. If the employer chose to refuse the option, the workman could never obtain the commutation. He wanted to do the best he could for the workman, and to enable him to obtain this commutation, if he desired it, even if the employer refused it. ["Hear, hear!"] The proposal was absolutely mutual and absolutely fair, and the only discretion left was to the arbitrator, who, if he thought the commutation wrong, would be able to refuse it both to the employer and to the workman.

Mr. PICKERSGILL (Bethnal Green, N.W.) said he wished to have a fair and square issue before the Committee, and with that object he proposed that the Amendment should be amended by leaving out all the words after the word "Act" to the end of the Amendment. He desired that the workman should have a fair option.

Question put, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the proposed Amendment."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 164; Noes, 77.—(Division List, No. 235.)

Question put, "That those words be there inserted."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 172; Noes, 78.—(Division List, No. 236.)

Mr. BAINBRIDGE moved, at the end of Section (4) to insert the words—

"and, if the incapacity or the continuance of the incapacity to the workman is wholly or partially due to ill health or to any excess or misconduct on his part, the weekly payment may be ended or diminished."

He mentioned, as an illustration of the necessity for some such Amendment, the case of a man who was examined by a colliery doctor, when it was found that the damage for which he claimed compensation was entirely due to an ulcerated leg. The circumstances of such a case as that ought certainly to affect a claim to continued compensation. If the Government considered that his object was already met by the provision for the review of cases by a medical officer he would withdraw the Amendment.

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY thought that it was perfectly clear that the hon. Member's object would be met by the words agreed to respecting revision.

MR. BAINBRIDGE, after that assuranse, asked leave to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY moved in Section (6) to leave out the word "or."

Amendment agreed to.

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY moved in Section (6), after the word "charged," to insert the words "or attached."

Amendment agreed to.

THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire) moved, at the end of Section (6) to add the following section:—

"(7) In the application of the Act and of this schedule to Scotland the expression 'dependants' means the persons who, according to the law of Scotland, are entitled to sue the employer for damages or solatium in respect of the death of the workman, and who are wholly or in part dependant upon the earnings of the workman at the time of or immediately prior to his death. The expression 'infant' shall mean pupil."

MR. PARKER SMITH asked whether this Amendment would make the operation of this Bill in Scotland the same as in England?

THE LORD ADVOCATE said that practically it would put matters on the same footing, but as a matter of fact, the persons who were entitled to sue in Scotland were not precisely the same as the persons who were entitled to sue under Lord Campbell's Act in England.

SIR J. BRUNNER observed that the Amendment supplied another illustration of the inconvenience of legislating by reference. The Committee were engaged in passing legislation which was supposed to be for the guidance of people who were less erudite than Members of Parliament, and yet he did not feel sure that all Members understood it.

Amendment agreed to.

*SIR FRANCIS POWELL (Wigan) moved, after the words last inserted, to add—

"any workman claiming compensation under this Act shall, if so required by the employer, from time to time submit himself for examination by a duly qualified medical practitioner appointed and paid by the employer. If the workman refuses without sufficient cause to submit himself to such examination or otherwise obstructs the same, his right to such weekly payment shall be suspended until such examination has taken place."

The object of the Amendment was to prevent fraud. The proposed procedure would be analogous to that of the Friendly Societies and of the Mining Societies of Durham and Northumberland.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN said that he appreciated the object of the hon. Baronet, but that it was already to a large extent met by the provision agreed to as to revision. The Government were prepared to meet the general wish that the medical practitioner to be consulted should be someone in whom all would have confidence, that was to say, someone in the position of an official.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

First schedule, as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill.

SECOND SCHEDULE.

ARBITRATION.

The following provisions shall apply for settling any matter which under this Act is to be settled by arbitration:—

(1.) If any committee, representative of an employer and his workmen exists with power to settle matters under this Act in the case of the employer and workmen, the matter shall, unless either party objects, be settled by that committee.

(2.) If either party so objects, or there is no such committee, the matter shall be settled by a single arbitrator agreed on by the parties, or, in the absence of agreement, by the County Court Judge, or if the Lord Chancellor certifies that under the circumstances of the particular district it is not convenient that the County Court Judge should be called upon to act as arbitrator, by a single arbitrator appointed by such County Court Judge.

(3.) Any arbitrator other than the County Court Judge shall be paid *out of moneys to be provided by Parliament* in accordance with regulations to be made by the Treasury.

(4.) The Arbitration Act 1889 shall not apply to any arbitration under this Act; but an arbitrator may, if he thinks fit, submit any question of law for the decision of the County Court Judge, and the decision of the Judge on any question of law, either on such submission, or in any case where he himself acts as arbitrator under this Act, shall be final; and any award made under this Act shall be enforced in the same manner as an order of a County Court.

(5.) The costs of the arbitration shall be in the discretion of the arbitrator.

(6.) The duty of a County Court Judge under this Act shall, subject to rules of court, be part of the duties of the County Court, and the officers of the Court shall act accordingly.

(7.) Any sum awarded as compensation shall be paid on the receipt of the person entitled, and his solicitor or agent shall not be entitled to recover from him, or to claim a lien on the amount recovered for, any costs except such as have been awarded by the arbitrator.

(8.) Any committee, judge, or other arbitrator may appoint a legally qualified medical practitioner to report on any matter which seems material to any question arising in the arbitration; and the expense of any such medical practitioner, not exceeding *two* guineas, shall be paid by the employer.

(9.) In the application of this schedule to Scotland "sheriff" shall be substituted for "County Court Judge."

MR. PICKARD moved in Section (1), after the words "employer and his workmen," to insert the words:—

"such committee shall be composed of an equal number of employers' and workmen's representatives."

He maintained that in these matters there should be a mutual arrangement, and that negotiations should be put on such a footing that workmen and employers should be enabled to work in a conciliatory spirit in connection with any arrangement entered into.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN hoped that the hon. Member would not press the Amendment. Under the Bill the Committee could only be appointed in the first place by mutual agreement, and even after the Committee was appointed no case could be presented unless with the consent of the two parties. He hoped that in the vast majority of cases the Committees would consist, not of an equal number of employers and workmen's representatives, but a majority of workmen's representatives. The best Committee he knew to exist was in large works near Birmingham. It had worked with admirable satisfaction for a long period of time, and it consisted of 12 workmen and one employer, who was the chairman. There was no question of equality of interest, but matters were discussed in a practical way, and the employer gave his opinion. He doubted whether there were many cases of division, and if there were, the views of the majority of the workmen were taken. The Amendment would prevent an employer from allowing his workmen to be in the majority.

In answer to Mr. PICKARD,

MR. CHAMBERLAIN said that if an employer was so foolish as to insist upon having a majority on the Committee, the workmen would probably refuse to join the Committee, and if a workman was injured they would probably refuse to submit his case. He knew several cases where an employer had not attempted to obtain a majority, or even an equality.

MR. BURNS appealed to his hon. Friend not to press the Amendment, and supported the view of the Colonial Secretary.

*MR. J. WILSON (Durham, Mid) asked whether it was contemplated that the Committee should be confined to a single firm or colliery, or whether there was to be a scheme of grouping of a district?

MR. CHAMBERLAIN said that it was distinctly the intention of the Government that the greatest liberty should be allowed in the formation of these committees. They should either be committees of particular firms, committees of trades, or of districts; but the Government would look into the matter and see whether the words were wide enough to meet the view of hon. Gentlemen.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY moved in Section (1), after the word "objects," to insert the words, "by notice in writing sent to the other party before the committee meet to consider."

Amendment agreed to.

Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY moved in Section (1), to leave out the word "that," in order to insert the words, "the arbitration of such." The object of the Amendment was to make it clear that the committee shall act as an arbitrator.

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. J. L. WALTON (Leeds, S.) moved, at the end of Section (1), to insert the words, "or referred by them in their discretion to arbitration."

The ATTORNEY GENERAL accepted the Amendment, substituting the words "an arbitrator," for "arbitration."'

Amendment, as amended, agreed to.

Sir JOHN LUBBOCK (London University) moved, after the words last inserted, to add,—

"Any conciliation board consisting of equal numbers of employers and employed, shall be authorised to undertake arbitrations under this Act."

He said he proposed this Amendment at the request of the London Conciliation Board.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL hoped his right hon. Friend would not press his Amendment, as the Government were prepared to put in after "arbitrator," Section (2), the words, "or conciliation board," which would have the same effect.

Mr. BURNS hoped the Attorney General would reconsider the concession he had made, as it was not desirable to have the same tribunal of masters and men who discussed wages in the pre-strike period dealing with the questions here involved.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: This is only to give the alternative of a conciliation board where such a board had the confidence of both parties.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Words proposed by Attorney General agreed to.

Mr. WALTON moved, in Section (2), to leave out from the words "shall be" to the end of the section, and to insert the words,—

"determined by suit in the County Court of the district in which the injury complained of was occasioned."

He moved the Amendment in order to provide the parties with the opportunity of having recourse to the ordinary tribunals to settle the very important questions which this Act involved. This proposal created the County Court Judge as arbitrator, but stripped him of all his judicial functions. It was most important to have judicial procedure, so that the Judge's decisions could be corrected on appeal. Under this legislation there would be no appeal. Most important issues of fact would have to be decided, and the Bill bristled with points of law.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL said that the Government proposed to adopt Amendments now on the Paper, which would meet all the points of the hon. and learned Member, without involving the readjustment of the whole framework of the Bill. An appeal on questions of law to the Court of Appeal would be provided. There must be some means of reviewing the decisions of County Courts in order that general principles might be authoritatively laid down.

*Mr. J. WILSON (Durham, Mid) hoped that the Court of Appeal would not be called in, or the way would be opened to much litigation.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY moved, in Section (2), after the words, "by a single arbitrator," to insert the words "or conciliation board."

Amendment agreed to.

Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY moved, in Section (2), after the word "if," to insert the words "in England."

Amendment agreed to.

Sir ROBERT REID moved, in Section (2), to insert at the end:—

"In cases in which the County Court Judge, or an arbitrator appointed by him, is the arbitrator, the workman or his representative may deliver to the Registrar of the County Court of the district in which he resides a statement of the nature of his claim with his name and address and that of the employer, and it shall be the duty of the Registrar to give notice of the said claim to the employer and to make the necessary arrangements for the arbitration, and give notice thereof to both parties, and all such claims may be amended by the arbitrator on such terms as to adjournment or otherwise as he thinks just, in order that the questions in dispute may be disposed of."

Amendment agreed to.

MR. GEORGE WHITELEY moved, in Section (3), after the word "Judge," to insert the words, "and the costs of such settlement by arbitration." He thought it was unreasonable that a workman who became entitled to a sum of money by sustaining an accident should have that sum lessened by the costs.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN: I cannot conceive anything more calculated to provoke litigation than the provision that the expenses should be borne by the State. The Government, therefore, oppose the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES moved, in Section (3), after the word "shall," to insert the words,—

"subject to a right of appeal in every such case by any party to Her Majesty's Court of Appeal."

The Judges of the County Court were not bound by each other's decisions. Instead of having a body of settled principles, they would probably have 50 different settlements of the same point in 50 different districts, and it was therefore absolutely essential that an appeal should be allowed.

SIR R. REID deprecated any encouragement of litigation, and therefore hoped the Amendment would not be accepted.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL contended that it was necessary the County Court Judges should know authoritatively what law they were to obey.

MR. HALDANE thought it would be a great misfortune if the Amendment were accepted, because it was very undesirable that the Court of Appeal should be let loose in these matters.

*MR. J. WILSON (Durham, Mid) hoped the Government would not accept the Amendment. On this point they were deviating from their original purpose. He trusted they would insist that the decision of the County Court Judge should be final.

MR. BURNS said that if the Amendment were accepted the result would be that in many cases the whole of the money would be thrown away upon lawyers.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN said they were all agreed that they should prevent litigation, and he asked his hon. Friend to withdraw the Amendment and allow the Government to consider the matter between now and the Report stage. If they found they could admit the Amendment they would do so.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES said he could not take the course suggested, and he was prepared to convince the Committee. [*Laughter.*] Exactly the same proposition was made by the present Chancellor of the Exchequer during the discussion of the Finance Bill of 1894. It was adopted, but the Inland Revenue Department refused to go to the County Court. The late Government went out, and the present Chancellor of the Exchequer came into office and supported his own Department in refusing to act upon his own Amendment. [The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER: "No, I did not!" *and laughter.*] He would remind the Committee that it was purely on questions of law that the appeal was to arise, that the appeal would not be to the High Court, that there would be none of the expense incurred which took place principally in the High Court, and that it would go direct to the Court of Appeal. He thought it was absolutely necessary that an appeal should take place, not on questions of fact, but on questions of law, and he must really press his Amendment.

MR. WALTON desired to enforce the argument of the hon. Gentleman opposite. County Court Judges were lawyers, and they were to enforce this legislation. County Court Judges had a professional tendency to differ in regard to points of law, and the result was that unless they constituted a Court of Appeal which could produce harmony amid this judicial babel, they would have a revival of the juridical heptarchy. They would have a distinct code of law, so far as this legislation was concerned, in every County Court district. He should have thought the statement of the Attorney General would have been entirely satisfactory to the Committee that they must get the Act judicially construed and some definite legal code established before they could give it efficient practical operation.

Question put, "That those words be there inserted."

The Committee proceeded to a Division:—Ayes, 144; Noes, 79.—(Division List, No. 237.)

And, it being after Midnight, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress; to sit again To-morrow.

FINANCE BILL.

Considered in Committee.

[The CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS, Mr. J. W. LOWTHER, in the Chair.]

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bristol, W.) moved the following new clause:—

SALE OF TOBACCO IN OMNIBUSES AND TRAMWAY CARS.

(1.) Section 12 of the Revenue Act 1884 (which relates to the sale of tobacco in railway carriages under the licence of the Commissioners of Inland Revenue) shall apply in the case of omnibuses, tramway cars and tramway carriages, as it applies in the case of railway carriages, and shall apply to the proprietors of any such omnibuses, tramway cars, or tramway carriages as it applies to the proprietors of railway carriages or to a railway company.

(2) The expression "omnibus" in this section has the same meaning as in the Town Police Clauses Act 1889, and includes a "stage carriage" within the meaning of the Metropolitan Public Carriage Act 1869.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE (Carnarvon Boroughs) moved to report Progress.

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER hoped the hon. Gentleman would not persist in his Motion. At the present time tobacco and cigarettes could be sold in railway carriages for the convenience of passengers, and also, no doubt, to the advantage of the revenue. It was desirable to extend the power of sale to omnibuses and tramway cars. It was a very small matter and he hoped the hon. Member would, therefore, withdraw his Motion.

MR. BURNS asked, would the Chancellor of the Exchequer suggest in regard to the people who bought cigars and cigarettes on the top of omnibuses, that it should be obligatory upon them to sit in the back seat when they smoked.

MR. P. A. M'HUGH (Leitrim, N.) also moved to report Progress.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS pointed out that this Bill was exempted from the Twelve o'clock Rule.

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER proposed only to take those clauses which he had placed on the Paper and that of the hon. Member for North Islington. He had then agreed with the hon. Member for East Mayo that progress should be reported.

MR. J. SAMUEL (Stockton) thought it would be a serious inconvenience to ladies if gentlemen were permitted to smoke in omnibuses and tram cars.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER pointed out that smoking was not permitted inside these vehicles now, and the clause left the matter where it stood. Smoking, however, was allowed outside. The clause would simply permit of the sale of tobacco and cigarettes in omnibuses and tram cars.

MR. WHITTAKER admitted that people were allowed to smoke now on omnibuses and tram cars, but this clause would increase the facilities whilst he scarcely thought it was fair to tradespeople.

Clause read a Second time, and ordered to stand part of the Bill.

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER moved the following clause:—

"Where under the power conferred by any Act any county council or municipal corporation issue bills repayable not later than 12 months from their date those bills shall, notwithstanding that by the same or any other Act they are charged or secured on any property, fund, or rate, and that the statutory charge referred to in the Bill be treated for the purpose of the Stamp Act 1891, and the Acts amending that Act, as promissory notes and not as marketable securities."

He said that under the present law the stamp duty on such Bills was such an addition to the rate of interest as to prohibit their issue. If the clause were carried the duty would be only 1s. per cent.

MR. B. L. COHEN (Islington, E.) thanked his right hon. Friend for this clause. He thought it was very desirable that the County Council should have this power.

Clause read a Second time, and ordered to stand part of the Bill.

MR. G. C. T. BARTLEY (Islington, N.) moved the following clause:—

INCOME TAX (MARRIED WOMEN).

(1.) Where the total joint income of a husband and wife charged to Income Tax, by way either of assessment or deduction, does not exceed five hundred pounds, and upon a claim for exemption, relief, or abatement, under the Acts relating to the Income Tax, the Commissioners for general purposes of those Acts are satisfied that such total income includes profits of the wife from any business carried on or exercised by means of her own personal labour, and that the rest of the total income or any part thereof arises or accrues from profits of a business carried on or exercised by means of the husband's own personal labour, and unconnected with the business of the wife, they shall deal with such claim as if it were a claim in respect of the said profits of the wife, and a separate claim on the part of the husband in respect of the rest of the total income, but they shall deal with any income of the husband arising or accruing from the business of his wife or from any source connected therewith as if it were part of the income of the wife.

(2.) In this section "business" means any profession, trade, employment, or vocation, or any office or employment of profit, and the "profits of a business" means any profits, gains, or remuneration arising or accruing from the business and chargeable under Schedule D. or Schedule E. in the Income Tax Act 1853.

(3.) Sub-section 2 of Section 34 of the Finance Act 1894 is hereby repealed, save as respects any Income Tax charged under any former Act.

He said the clause embodied an alteration in the law he had urged on a good many occasions—namely, that where the joint incomes of husband and wife were separately earned the two incomes should for the purposes of tax be treated as separate; that was to say, that in cases in which the wife earned a living herself, and added it to her husband's earnings, the two should not be combined.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER said that when his hon. Friend brought the subject before the House last year he was obliged to resist the proposal because it appeared to him to go to a very dangerous extent. This clause was a different matter. It had been very carefully framed with the result that in the first place it only applied to industrial incomes and not to incomes derived from investment; and, secondly, he did not think that there could be any collusion between the husband and wife, so that their earnings really derived from one and the same trade could be treated as separate incomes. He was, therefore, prepared to accept the clause. ["Hear, hear!"]

Clause read a Second time, and ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Committee report Progress; to sit again upon Thursday 17th June.

FOREIGN PRISON-MADE GOODS BILL.

Adjourned Debate on Motion for Committal to Standing Committee on Trade, Etc. [17th May] further adjourned till Thursday 17th June.

PUBLIC OFFICES (WHITEHALL) SITE (RE-COMMITTED) BILL.

Committee deferred till To-morrow.

PATENT OFFICE EXTENSION (RE-COMMITTED) BILL.

Committee deferred till To-morrow.

POST OFFICE (SITES) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Thursday 17th June.

EXTRAORDINARY TITHE BILL.

Committee deferred till To-morrow.

METROPOLITAN WATER COMPANIES BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Thursday 17th June.

DANGEROUS PERFORMANCES BILL.

Considered in Committee.

Clause 1,—Committee report Progress; to sit again upon Thursday 17th June.

LAW OF EVIDENCE (CRIMINAL CASES) BILL.

Committee deferred till Thursday 24th June.

LAND TRANSFER BILL [H.L.].

Second Reading deferred till Thursday 17th June.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES (METRIC SYSTEM) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Thursday 17th June.

BERRIEW SCHOOL BILL.

Adjourned Debate on Third Reading [24th May] further adjourned till Thursday 17th June.

PRISONS BILL

Second Reading deferred till Thursday 17th June.

POLICE (PROPERTY) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Thursday 17th June.

SCHOOL BOARDS' EXPENSES BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Thursday 17th June.

BICYCLES (IRELAND) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Thursday 17th June.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ALDERSHOT AND FARNBOROUGH) BILL.

Adjourned Debate on Second Reading [1st April] further adjourned till Thursday 17th June.

BURIAL GROUNDS LOANS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Adjourned Debate on Second Reading [11th May] further adjourned till Thursday 17th June.

ISLE OF MAN (CHURCH BUILDING ACTS) BILL [H.L.].

Second Reading deferred till Thursday 17th June.

STIPENDIARY MAGISTRATES' JURISDICTION (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Thursday 17th June.

POOR LAW BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Thursday 17th June.

CONGESTED DISTRICTS (SCOTLAND) [GRANT].

Committee deferred untill To-morrow.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND) [GRANTS].

Mr. RENSHAW said it was the unanimous wish of those interested in the Bill among the supporters of the Government, a wish shared by a considerable number of hon. Members opposite, that the Government would proceed with the Committee at once, to give opportunity for consideration in Scotland during the holidays.

Mr. PARKER SMITH said he wished to join in the appeal of his hon. Friend.

Mr. J. CALDWELL (Mid Lanark) said that the Scotch Members on both sides had supported the Bill on the understanding that ample time would be given for its consideration.

The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY said his desire had been to afford an opportunity for passing through the Committee stage of this Resolution on the following day, but when he had made the suggestion he had been informed by a high authority on the Front Opposition Bench, which had subsequently been fortified by equally strong protests by other leading Members of the Opposition, that exception was taken to that course. He felt himself bound to defer to the apparent deliberate and unanimous desire on the part of the Opposition, and he should therefore bring in the Bill as soon as possible after Whitsuntide.

Committee thereupon deferred till Thursday 17th June.

MANHOOD SUFFRAGE (IRELAND) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Friday 2nd July.

SOLICITORS (MAGISTRACY) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Monday 5th July.

SCHOOL BOARD ELECTORATE (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

PRISONERS' PERSONAL CORRECTION PROHIBITION BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Thursday 24th June.

SEA FISHERIES (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Thursday 1st July.

CORN SALES BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Thursday 1st July.

COTTAGE HOMES BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Thursday 24th June.

EVICTED TENANTS (IRELAND) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Thursday 17th June.

RESTRAINT OF EVICTIONS (LONDON) BILL.

Committee deferred till Thursday 17th June.

SUPREME COURT OF JUDICATURE (IRELAND) ACT (1877) AMENDMENT BILL.

Committee deferred till Friday 18th June.

LICENSING (SCOTLAND) ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Thursday 17th June.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (1888) AMENDMENT BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Thursday 17th June.

VEHICLES (LIGHTS) BILL.

Committee deferred till Thursday 17th June.

BETTING ACT (1853) REPEAL BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Monday 5th July.

CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD (IRELAND) (COMPULSORY PURCHASE POWERS) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Thursday 17th June.

STEAM ENGINES AND BOILERS (PERSONS IN CHARGE) BILL.

Adjourned Debate on Motion for Committal to Standing Committee on Trade, Etc. [17th February] further adjourned till Wednesday, 23rd June.

VERMINOUS PERSONS BILL.

Third Reading deferred till Thursday 17th June.

RAILWAY RETURN TICKETS BILL.

Third Reading deferred till Thursday 17th June.

HIGHWAYS BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Friday 18th June.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (1894) AMENDMENT (No. 2) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Wednesday 30th June.

GROUND GAME ACT (EXTENSION TO COPYHOLDERS) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Friday 18th June.

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION BILL [H.L.].

Second Reading deferred till Thursday 17th June.

COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEAL BILL.

Adjourned Debate on Motion for Committal to Select Committee [24th March] further adjourned till Thursday 24th June.

POOR LAW OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION ACT (1896) AMENDMENT BILL.

Considered in Committee, and reported, without Amendment; Bill Read the Third time, and passed.

PARISH REGISTERS BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Thursday 17th June.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (1888) AMENDMENT (No. 2) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Thursday 17th June.

ARCHDEACONRY OF LONDON (ADDITIONAL ENDOWMENTS) BILL.

Order read, for resuming Adjourned Debate on Question [24th February], "That the Bill be now Read a Second time."

Question put and agreed to. Bill Read a Second time, and committed for Thursday 17th June.

LICENSING EXEMPTION (HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Thursday 17th June.

MOTIONS.

VACCINATION (CALF LYMPH).

Bill to amend the Vaccination Laws, by providing a compulsory supply of Calf Lymph under Government control; and for other purposes, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Carlile, Sir Cameron Gull, Mr. Bemrose, Mr. Howell, and Mr. Wanklyn; presented, and Read the First time; to be Read a Second time upon Wednesday 7th July, and to be printed.—[Bill 285.]

YORKSHIRE CORONERS.

Bill to constitute the Ridings of Yorkshire separate counties for all the purposes of the Coroners' Acts, ordered to be brought in by Mr. John Hutton, Captain Bethell, Mr. Briggs, Mr. Pickard, and Mr. Wilson-Todd; presented, and Read the First time; to be Read a Second time upon Thursday 24th June, and to be printed.—[Bill 286.]

COUNTY COUNCILS (ADVANCES).

Bill to enable County Councils in England and Wales to advance money to local authorities, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Hobhouse, Sir John Dorington, Mr. Humphreys-Owen, Sir William Houldsworth, Mr. Channing, Mr. Bill, Mr. Brigg, and Mr. Lloyd-George; presented, and Read the First time; to be Read a Second time upon Thursday 17th June, and to be printed.—[Bill 287.]

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE (MARKS) BILL.

The Select Committee on Agricultural Produce (Marks) Bill was nominated of—Mr. Brigg, Colonel Cotton-Jodrell, Mr. Wingfield-Digby, Mr. Doughty, Sir William Houldsworth, Mr. Hozier, Mr. Heywood Johnstone, Mr. Kearley, Mr. Kilbride, Sir John Kinloch, Sir Elliott Lees, Mr. Macaleese, Mr. Mildmay, Mr. A. H. Smith, and Mr. Parker Smith.

Ordered, that the Committee have power to send for persons, papers, and records.

Ordered, that five be the quorum.—(*Sir William Walrond.*)

House Adjourned at Twenty-five Minutes before One o'Clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Friday, 4th June 1897.

QUESTIONS.

POSTAL TELEGRAPH OFFICES (SCOTLAND).

MR. J. G. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, if he will state the number of postal telegraph offices in Ross and Cromarty, including the island of Lewis, at which money order business is not conducted; and will he state the number of money order offices in that county at which telegraph business is not transacted?

THE SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. R. W. HANBURY, Preston): The number of postal telegraphic offices in Ross and Cromarty, including the island of Lewis, at which money order business is not conducted is 13. The number of money order offices in that county at which telegraphic business is not transacted is five.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, if he will grant a Return showing the places in the counties of Inverness, Argyll, Ross and Cromarty, Sutherland, Caithness, and Orkney and Shetland for which telegraph guarantees were asked during the years 1894, 1895, and 1896 respectively; also the amount of the guarantee in each case; and indicating the name of any such place at which a telegraph office has been established?

MR. HANBURY: The information asked for by the hon. Member was furnished to him as regards the year 1895 in a letter dated the 31st March 1896. Statements for the years 1894 and 1896 can be prepared and sent to the hon. Member, but they will take some time to prepare seeing that the information has to be picked out of a mass of correspondence.

POST OFFICE ESTABLISHMENTS.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, in view of the fact that the Secretary to the Post Office issued a circular in the name of the Postmaster General, in November last, urging that, in the interests of the service, and in order to afford a proper flow of promotion to persons engaged in it, it is desirable that retirements should take place at the age of 60; whether he is aware that at the present time two messengers are employed on the staff of adult messengers attached to the Secretary's Office of the General Post Office each of whom is 65 years of age; and whether he will in this instance consider the expediency of enforcing the provisions of the circular referred to?

MR. HANBURY: The circular in question granted a year of grace which was to expire on the 1st January 1898. None of the messengers in the Secretary's Office of the General Post Office have yet reached the age of 65. The question of enforcing the provisions of the circular will be considered when the proper time arrives.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, (1) whether he is aware that although the late Financial Secretary to the Post Office retired on a pension prior to the 30th November 1896, the office has not been filled up, and has in fact been abolished; and (2) will he state why the salary, £1,500, appears in the Post Office Estimates, 1897-8; and to whom it is paid?

MR. HANBURY: The answer to the first part of the hon. Member's Question is "Yes." As to the second, the explanation is that the Estimates were prepared before a decision had been arrived at to abolish the office referred to. The salary has not been paid to any one since the retirement of the late Financial Secretary.

TELEGRAMS (RE-DIRECTED).

*MR. COMPTON RICKETT (Scarborough): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, why it is that the charge for a re-directed telegram has to be paid by the receiver before the message is delivered at an hotel; and, on the other hand, if a re-directed message is sent from the hotel, why the charge has to be paid before the message can be accepted by the Post Office; and whether the rule is uniformly followed in the case of hotels and boarding-houses?

MR. HANBURY: The Postmaster General is not aware that a distinction is made between an hotel and any other house in the delivery of a re-directed telegram. If the charge for re-direction has not been prepaid, it is the duty of the messenger to endeavour to obtain it from the addressee. On the other hand, the rule requiring the charge for a telegram re-directed from an hotel or boarding-house to be prepaid was adopted because of the loss the Department had sustained from being unable to obtain payment of the re-direction fee in such cases, and so far as the Postmaster General is aware this rule is uniformly applied.

SCULCOATES UNION.

LORD EDMUND TALBOT (Sussex, Chichester): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether his attention has been called to the case of Arthur Blow and the Sculcoates Union; and, whether he will grant an immediate official inquiry into all the circumstances of the case?

THE SECRETARY TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. T. W. RUSSELL, Tyrone, S.): The facts of the case with regard to the boy referred to in the Question have been the subject of considerable correspondence, and it is not necessary that there should be an inquiry as suggested for the purpose of ascertaining them. The mother of the boy was deserted by her husband, and in order that she might go out to work she placed the child with a Mrs. Stamp, paying for his maintenance with her. The mother died in 1889, and Mrs. Stamp then applied to the Guardians for relief for the child, and this relief was granted to her by the Guardians. The religion of the boy at that time was stated to be Primitive Methodist, but there appears to be no doubt that the religion of the father and mother was Roman Catholic. For some time the boy was sent to a Roman Catholic day and Sunday School, but he was afterwards apparently sent to a Board School. The Local Government Board regret that this should have been done, but they have no authority under which they could require that the child should be taken from the charge of Mrs. Stamp. Subsequently when the boy was over 12 years of age he was received into the workhouse, and according to the statements which have been made to the Board, he wished to be brought up as a Primitive Methodist, and the Statute does not confer on the Board any power of interfering in such a case.

QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE.

SIR EDWARD GOURLEY (Sunderland): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether the Government will, during the Jubilee year, recommend to Her Majesty the Queen the bestowal of some recognition upon those officers, soldiers, and sailors who served in the Crimea or Indian Mutiny, the two leading campaigns of Her Majesty's reign?

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): All who served in the campaigns have had the medal and clasps. The services of a great number of officers engaged have been recognised by promotion and other distinctions, and of the men by the recent grant of compassionate campaign pensions, but it is not contemplated to make any general distribution of honours to the survivors at the Jubilee.

MR. G. C. T. BARTLEY (Islington, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether a holiday, with pay, will be given on Jubilee Day to all persons employed in the public service, though they may not be technically "public servants," such as mechanics, labourers, and others employed at Her Majesty's prisons, and who in most cases have to take a compulsory holiday?

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY, Lancashire, Blackpool): The only persons in the prison service to whom the question would apply are men employed temporarily only, and I can hardly see how as a whole they can be treated as public servants for this purpose. My hon. Friend is not correct in his supposition that the majority of them will have to take a compulsory holiday on that day. I am quite prepared to consider any individual cases of hardship.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny): I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works whether he is yet in a position to say if he will be able to provide seats for the attendants of the House of Commons to witness the Jubilee Procession?

THE FIRST COMMISSIONER OF WORKS (Mr. AKERS-DOUGLAS, Kent, St. Augustine's) said that he was not sure, but he thought that he should be able to make arrangements for the accommodation of, at any rate, most of the attendants of the House of Commons to witness the Jubilee procession.

MR. CUMMING MACDONA (Southwark, Rotherhithe): I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works whether he will make arrangements with the Trustees of the National Gallery so that occupants of the seats reserved for the Members of the House of Lords and their friends on the coming Jubilee Day may have access to the National Gallery during the time of the pageant?

MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS said that the question of opening the National Gallery to the Members of the House of Lords and their friends on Jubilee Day was not one for him to decide, it rested with the trustees of the Gallery. He should certainly hesitate to ask that the Gallery should be opened, because it would give the attendants unnecessary work on a day which ought to be a holiday. ["Hear, hear!"]

MR. EDWIN LAWRENCE (Cornwall, Truro): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether the consent of the General Officer Commanding the District is necessary before local Volunteers can parade or take part in a procession; and, if so, whether the rule will be relaxed, so as to allow Commanding Officers to arrange for parade and marches out of local Volunteers on Jubilee Day?

MR. BRODRICK: All General Officers Commanding Districts have been authorised to sanction any arrangements they may think desirable to assist local celebrations of the Jubilee. This will include the employment of Volunteers. Volunteers cannot be employed on public occasions without the authority of the General Officer Commanding.

ARMY PENSIONERS.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether Army pensioners can under any circumstances, and, if so, what, commute their pensions; and whether the Government will consider the desirability of providing that all Army pensioners may commute their pensions when they desire to do so, either for the purpose of investing the sum in the purchase of a house to avoid the cost of rent, a business in which to train and support their families, or to otherwise invest the amount for the benefit of their children after death?

The HON. MEMBER also asked the Under Secretary of State for War whether the Government will consider the desirability of allowing Army pensioners in Great Britain and Ireland to commute their pensions where they might desire to do so; and whether Army pensioners are under any circumstances allowed to commute their pensions?

MR. BRODRICK: A pensioner in good health, between the ages of 50 and 80 years, is allowed to commute his pension for the purpose of residing in a colony or abroad if he can show, to the Secretary of State's satisfaction, that commutation will be a distinct and permanent advantage to him. It is not considered desirable to allow pensioners residing in the United Kingdom to commute their pensions, nor is it in their own interests desirable for pensioners to commute their pensions except in very special cases.

DISCHARGED SOLDIERS.

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that there are some 2,000 veterans, who have served either in the Crimean War or the Indian Mutiny, now inmates of workhouses; and whether he will consider the advisability of granting a small pension to all those in this position who are over 70 years of age?

MR. BRODRICK: From a Return presented this Session, it appears that in May 1896 there were in workhouses in the United Kingdom 352 men over the age of 60 and without pension who could substantiate their claim to be discharged soldiers, although there is no evidence that they had served in the campaigns mentioned, and there is no reason to suppose that the number is now essentially different. Special campaign pensions have been awarded to Crimean and Indian Mutiny veterans of 10 years' service in 2,737 cases, at a yearly cost of £36,390. In some of these cases the pensioners remain in the workhouse by their own choice, where they are allowed to receive 2s. a week to spend. It is not intended to extend these pensions to men of less than 10 years' Army service.

NATIONAL SCHOOL TEACHERS (IRELAND).

MR. J. L. CAREW (Dublin, College Green): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the quinquennial reports to 1st January 1891, and 1st January 1896, respectively, on the state of the National School Teachers (Ireland) Fund, have been presented in compliance with the terms of the Irish National School Teachers' Pension Act; and, if not, whether, pending the presentation of the Reports, further action will be stayed on the recommendations of the Treasury Departmental Committee's Report on the state of the Pension Fund?

MR. HANBURY: There is no statutory obligation to present the Quinquennial Reports on the Teachers Pension Fund; such Reports are not even referred to in the Act to which the hon. Member refers (42 and 43 Vict. cap 74). The annual accounts of the Fund are, however, duly presented as required by Section 5 of the Act. The last (that for 1896) was presented on the 7th May.

WEIGHING CATTLE.

MR. J. MCKILLOP (Stirlingshire): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture (1) whether he is aware that the number of cattle sold by live weight at the auction mart at Falkirk is very large as compared with the majority of the markets named in the Schedule to the Markets and Fairs (Weighing of Cattle) Act of 1891; and (2) whether he will consider the propriety of including Falkirk in the list of places in respect of which Returns of the number of animals weighed and sold either by live weight or otherwise are obtained and published?

*THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. WALTER LONG, Liverpool, West Derby): Yes, I am aware that special efforts have been made to encourage the practice of selling cattle by live weight at the mart referred to, and from the fact that, as I am informed, the number of cattle so sold at Falkirk during the year 1896-7 exceeds the number priced and weighed at the majority of the towns from which statutory returns are received, it is clear that those efforts have been attended with a considerable measure of success. I think the suggestion made in the second paragraph of the Question is a good one, and I will endeavour to give effect to it so soon as a convenient opportunity presents itself.

GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY OF IRELAND.

MR. D. MACALEESE (Monaghan, N.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that at an early hour on Monday morning last, near Inniskeen, a station on the Great Northern Railway, a distance of six miles from Dundalk, the night watchman discovered a large stone upon one of the rails, and had barely time to remove the obstruction before a goods train came past; and has any investigation been made into this occurrence, and with what result?

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. C. T. RITCHIE, Croydon): No, Sir; fortunately no accident happened, and the Company are therefore not under any obligation to report to the Board of Trade. The occurrence is obviously one which should be investigated by the Police authorities.

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

WORKMEN (COMPENSATION FOR ACCIDENTS) BILL.

Considered in Committee. [Progress 3rd June.]

[The CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS, Mr. J. W. LOWTHER, in the Chair.]

SECOND SCHEDULE—ARBITRATION.

The following provisions shall apply for settling any matter which under this Act is to be settled by arbitration:—

(1.) If any committee, representative of an employer and his workmen, exist with power to settle matters under this Act in the case of the employer and workmen, the matter shall, unless either party objects, be settled by that committee.

(2.) If either party so objects, or there is no such committee, the matter shall be settled by a single arbitrator agreed on by the parties, or in the absence of agreement, by the County Court Judge, or, if the Lord Chancellor certifies that, under the circumstances of the particular district it is not convenient that the County Court Judge should be called upon to act as arbitrator, by a single arbitrator appointed by such County Court Judge.

(3.) Any arbitrator other than the County Court Judge, shall be paid *out of moneys to be provided by Parliament*, in accordance with regulations to be made by the Treasury.

(4.) The Arbitration Act 1889 shall not apply to any arbitration under this Act; but an arbitrator may, if he thinks fit, submit any question of law for the decision of the County Court Judge, and the decision of the Judge on any question of law, either on such submission, or in any case where he himself acts as arbitrator under this Act, shall be final; and any award made under this Act shall be enforced in the same manner as an order of a County Court.

(5.) The costs of the arbitration shall be in the discretion of the arbitrator.

(6.) The duty of a County Court Judge under this Act shall, subject to rules of court, be part of the duties of the County Court, and the officers of the court shall act accordingly.

(7.) Any sum awarded as compensation shall be paid on the receipt of the person entitled, and his solicitor or agent shall not be entitled to recover from him, or to claim a lien on the amount recovered for, costs except such as have been awarded by the arbitrator.

(8.) Any committee, judge, or other arbitrator may appoint a legally qualified medical practitioner to report on any matter which seems material to any question arising in the arbitration; and the expenses of any such medical practitioner, not exceeding *two* guineas, shall be paid by the employer.

(9.) In the application of this schedule to Scotland "sheriff" shall be substituted for "County Court Judge."

MR. REGINALD McKENNA (Monmouth, N.) moved at the end of Section (4) after the words last inserted, to insert the words, "a workman shall be entitled to defend every such appeal *in forma pauperis*."

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Sir RICHARD WEBSTER, Isle of Wight) said that he should have to consider the question of these appeals very carefully before the Report stage, and he would not overlook the point raised by the hon. Member's Amendment.

MR. McKENNA thanked the right hon. and learned Gentleman for his statement, and asked leave to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. HOLLAND (Tower Hamlets, Bow and Bromley) moved in Section (4) to omit the words:—

"and any award under this Act shall be enforced in the same manner as an order of a County Court,"

and to insert the words:—

"and the County Court Judge, or the arbitrator appointed by him, shall, when sitting as arbitrator, have the same powers of procuring the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents as if the claim for compensation had been made by plaint in the County Court, and the award shall be considered for all purposes and shall be enforced in the same manner as an order in the County Court."

Amendment agreed to.

SIR C. DILKE (Gloucester, Forest of Dean), on behalf of the hon. Member for Northampton (Mr. LABOUCHERE), moved at the end of Section (4), after the word "court," to insert the words:—

"in any proceedings under this Act no party or other person shall appear or be attended by counsel or solicitor."

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL was perfectly certain the adoption of the Amendment would not be in the interest of the workmen. There was no necessity for counsel to appear before the Committee, but when a case was taken before the County Court Judge or the Court of Appeal, it was absolutely necessary there should be some one who was able to put the matter in a way which would command respect. and attention.

MR. LABOUCHERE (Northampton) could not agree with the hon. and learned Gentleman. The main object of the Bill was to put an end to expense, but as every one knew when solicitors were employed considerable costs were run up. It was in the interest of working men that this Amendment should be accepted, and as it stood in his name he should go to a Division.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis) said that he was no particular friend of lawyers, but he recognised they were necessary evils in certain cases, and if ever they were necessary they were in these cases. If this Amendment were adopted a workman, or his widow, or children would be deprived of the opportunity of putting the case in a proper fashion. Again, why should an employer be obliged to attend every one of the arbitrations or trials?

MR. HENRY BROADHURST (Leicester) said the hon. Member for King's Lynn had said he was no friend of the lawyers, but many Members were under the impression that the hon. Gentleman had been specially retained to speak on behalf of the legal profession throughout these Debates. The Attorney General had accepted the suggestion just made by the hon. Member for Monmouthshire. This Amendment was in complete harmony with his hon. Friend's proposal, and ought to be accepted.

Sir C. Dilke.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.) said they were all animated by the desire to do the best they could for the workman as well as the employer. It was perfectly clear there might be cases in which the refusal to the less educated of the right to appear by counsel would be a hardship. It would be much more of a hardship to the working man who was not accustomed to this kind of discussion than it would be to a richer man—say, the employer. At the same time, the Government were as strongly persuaded as any one could be that the constant interference of the lawyer would be an absolute injury—["hear, hear!"]—and they were anxious to do everything they could to keep him out. Special cases, however, must be provided for, and he suggested they should add to the Amendment "except by the leave of the Court or arbitrator or in any action in the Court of Appeal." ["Hear, hear!"]

MR. LABOUCHERE expressed his readiness to accept the right hon. Gentleman's suggestion.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES maintained that the object of hon. Gentlemen opposite was to bring in trade union secretaries, who would be retained at large salaries specially in order to argue cases of this kind. [Mr. BROADHURST: "Not a bit!"] Were they to admit the trade union secretary and exclude the solicitor?

MR. S. WOODS (Essex, Walthamstow) thanked the Colonial Secretary for his suggestion.

MR. G. W. WOLFF (Belfast, E.) said that the workman might appear through the trade union secretary. What was the employer to do? Was he to attend in person?

MR. CHAMBERLAIN: He would have the same choice.

MR. WOLFF: He has not got a trade union secretary. [*A laugh.*]

MR. CHAMBERLAIN said he did not accept the general statement that in every case the workmen would appear by a trade union official. He thought that in a great majority of cases the men would be perfectly content to appear before the arbitrator and make a plain statement. ["Hear, hear!"] And if a small employer could not state the facts of the case himself he must be very unfortunate if he had not a friend who would do it for him.

Amendment, as amended, agreed to.

Sir C. DILKE moved to leave out Section (5), and to insert the following section:—"(5) Each party shall bear his own costs of the arbitration." He thought it would be very hard that what might be in some cases very heavy costs should fall on working people. He thought it would be better to adopt a uniform principle and say that each party should pay his own costs. This might also have a tendency to limit costs.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL said he could not understand anybody who had experience of working men moving such an Amendment. What would happen? He would undertake to say that in 99 cases out of 100, where any award was made, the arbitrator would as a matter of course give the costs to the workman, and he could not understand why when a workman was successful and an award was made in his favour he should lose his costs. The only case he could conceive in which the arbitrator would say he should not have his costs would be where an offer had been made before by the master of a sum equally as large as the County Court Judge was going to give to the workman. He was satisfied the practice all through would be for the County Court Judge and the arbitrator to award the costs whenever an allowance was made, and to insert these words would be to deprive the workman of all his costs.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Sir ROBERT REID (Dumfries Burghs) moved at the end of Section (5) to insert:—

"Where the amount of compensation under this Act shall have been ascertained, or any weekly payment varied, or any other matter decided, under this Act, either by a committee or by arbitrator, or by agreement, a memorandum thereof shall be sent by the said committee or arbitrator, or by any party interested, to the Registrar of the County Court for the district in which any person entitled to such compensation resides, who shall, on being satisfied as to its genuineness, record such memorandum in a special register without charge, and thereupon the said memorandum shall for all purposes be enforceable as a County Court judgment. Provided that the County Court Judge may at any time rectify such register."

Amendment agreed to.

Sir CHARLES DILKE moved in Section (8), before the first word "Any," to insert the words, "The Secretary of State at the request of."

The SECRETARY of STATE for the HOME DEPARTMENT (Sir Matthew White Ridley, Lancashire, Blackpool) accepted the Amendment, though he was not quite certain what form of words would be best. That might be reserved to the Report stage. ["Hear, hear!"]

Mr. WOLFF asked whether there would be a practitioner regularly fixed in each district, or whether the arbitrator might from time to time appoint whoever he thought proper?

Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY said he should like to have a little information about the operation of the Act before he said definitely what would be done. He thought that in all probability it would be better to appoint a special officer for each district, or it might be possible to use an officer who was already available.

Amendment agreed to.

Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY moved in Section (8) to leave out the word "may," and to insert the word "shall."

Amendment agreed to.

Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY moved in Section (8), after the word "practitioner," to leave out the words "not exceeding two guineas."

Amendment agreed to.

Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY moved in Section (8) after the word "shall," to insert the words, "subject to Treasury regulations."

Amendment agreed to.

Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY moved in Section (8) to leave out the words, "by the employer," and to insert the words, "out of moneys provided by Parliament."

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee) moved after Section (8) to insert:—

"(9) The arbitrator shall state briefly in writing the probable cause of the accident, the nature of the employment in which it took place, and the defects, if any, in the premises, machinery, appliances, plant, precautions, or arrangements which, in his opinion, contributed to the accident. A copy of such statement shall be sent by the arbitrator to the Home Secretary, and a summary of such statements shall be annually published."

He believed that this sort of record would be very useful and would show in a comprehensive form the operations of the Act.

Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY said he had considered the Amendment, and in his opinion what the hon. Gentleman desired to arrive at was on the whole met by an Amendment which had been already inserted. He quite agreed with its object. He thought it extremely desirable that so far as practicable the Government and Parliament should be made aware of what was done under the Act. When the Bill was recast he would consider how far this was provided for, and how far it might be desirable t make still further provision in thi direction.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

The LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. Graha Murray, Buteshire) moved at the end o Section (9), after the word "Judge," t insert the words,—

"in the application of this Schedule to Scot land, 'Sheriff' should be substituted fo 'County Court Judge,' 'Sheriff Courts' fo 'County Courts,' and 'Acts of sederunt' fo 'rules of Court.' Any ward or agreement as t compensation under this Act may be recorde in the books of Council and Session or Sheri Court books, and shall be enforceable in lik manner as a recorded decree arbitral. An application to the Sheriff as arbitrator shall b heard, tried, and determined summarily in th manner provided under the 52nd Section of th Sheriff Courts (Scotland) Act 1876, subject to the declaration that it shall be competent fo either party to require the Sheriff to state a case on any question of law determined by hin and his decision thereon, and such case ma be submitted to either division of the Court o Session, who, if they considered that the poin involved is of general importance—[*cheers*]— may hear and determine the same finally, an remit to the Sheriff, with instructions as t the judgment to be pronounced."

That, he thought, would bring the Amendment into line with the spirit of the decision previously arrived at. He might, perhaps, be allowed to say one thing on a point that would have to be considered again on Report; and if he was not quite in order he was dealing with a practical matter. He had a very strong opinion on the question of the legal representation of the workman in the Sheriff's Court. They had large experience in Scotland of small debt cases, namely, cases under £12. There the persons might appear by themselves or by their next friend; and yet the universal practice in Scotland was that they always availed themselves of the experience of a more or less trained lawyer. It was not only a question of arguing the case in Court, but of its preparation. The views of hon. Members who wished to prevent undue expenditure on litigation could be met by framing a scale of costs as was done in the Small Debts Courts. As far as Scotland was concerned, he was quite sure that to deprive the workman of the assistance of a solicitor would be greatly against him. He was afraid he had been rather out of order—["hear, hear!"]—but perhaps the Committee would excuse him.

SIR ROBERT REID remarked that in regard to what the right hon. Gentleman had stated about legal agents, he should certainly like to make inquiries, because his impression was otherwise. At the same time, he acknowledged that the right hon. Gentleman had greater experience than himself. He must say that he regarded the Court as a sort of informal tribunal, and he should like to see the County Court Judge or the Sheriff, as the case might be, treat the thing exactly as a Joint Committee would treat it, and make the inquiry himself in an informal way. Of course that was a matter they could not settle at present, it must be dealt with on Report. As regarded the rest, he was extremely pleased to hear what the Lord Advocate had said. His proposals were very fair and liberal. "The Sheriff," he supposed, would mean the Sheriff Substitute. [The LORD ADVOCATE: "Yes!"] There was one other point, the importance of which the right hon. Gentleman did not appear to appreciate. He had not said so, but it ought to be set out that proceedings were to be initiated "at the request or on the communication of any person interested." He should be glad if the learned Lord Advocate would consider that before Report. In a similar way it was provided in the Amendment of which he (the speaker) gave notice, that either person might send a memorandum to the County Court Judge, who, on being satisfied of the genuineness of the case, would authorise the commencement of proceedings. He noticed also that the Sheriff only might state a case. He supposed it was meant that the arbitrator also might state a case. But that was a minor point. He thanked the Lord Advocate very much for stating that cases stated only were to be heard by the Court of Appeal.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES was very pleased to hear the Lord Advocate say he retained his own right to make this Bill more sensible and more reasonable as regarded Scotland upon the Report. In reference to the matter of appearance by solicitors or with the assistance of solicitors, he (the speaker) was only sorry that he did not take up the cause of England; but he was extremely glad to find that the stronger common sense that always marked Scotchmen would not be lost sight of in the Bill, and that the Bill would be rational and reasonable in Scotland even if it was not in England. [*Laughter.*] He was glad that the Lord Advocate, after consulting Her Majesty's Government, was to be permitted to make the proper alterations in this respect upon Report; and he hoped Her Majesty's Government, under the circumstances, would not put the English Members in a much worse position than the Scotch, and would also consider on Report the matter of employing solicitors in the English Court. [*Cries of* "No, no!"] Then he thought it was extremely hard that he was not born in Scotland. [*Laughter.*] It seemed to him that Scotchmen would have far greater advantages and a far more reasonable Act than Englishmen. With regard to the Court of Appeal, he did not quite see how the Court was to decide whether the point they were to decide upon was one of general interest when they had not heard the facts.

SIR ROBERT REID said that in a special case stated all the facts and everything that was required for forming a decision appeared on the face of it. No fact could be added by counsel; and if they chose, the Court could settle it in two or three hours without counsel.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: The right hon. Gentleman has added another cause for gratification. I see now that in Scotland you may understand a case before you have heard it. [*Laughter.*]

MR. J. CALDWELL (Lanark, Mid) said he understood the procedure before the Sheriff was to be in accordance with the second Section of the Sheriffs' Courts Act. The effect of this would be that only the parties themselves or their solicitor or counsel could appear. Thus, a miner's agent, for instance, could not appear before the Sheriff. He understood an arrangement was to be made in cases dealt with in the English County Court, whereby some non-professional person might appear on behalf of the party. He presumed if that was to be so in the case in England, a similar proviso ought to be made in the case of Scotland. [*Cries of* "Agreed, agreed!"]

MR. PARKER SMITH (Lanark, Partick) said the proposal of the Lord Advocate seemed for the moment to be satisfactory. But he thought it would be very carefully scrutinised in Scotland before the Report stage, because in Scotland they had suffered far more than in England in the matter of employers' liability from the extravagant cost of the law, which for reasons he would not now enter into was very much more expensive in Scotland than in England. People would therefore pay much attention to this matter, and he hoped the scheme of the Lord Advocate would pass the scrutiny satisfactorily.

MR. PICKARD (Yorkshire, Normanton) said he should like to know if the position with regard to representation by a friend and other matters would be like that in the Small Debts Court. If so, he thought it would be satisfactory to their friends in Scotland.

THE LORD ADVOCATE said it was not altogether like the Small Debts Court, because in that Court there was no appeal on a case of law stated. That was one difference. Of course the matter as to appearing by next friend would have to be considered on Report. This was not the time to go into it, but, obviously, if the parties were to be debarred from what really in Scotland was every man's next friend, the solicitor—[*laughter*]—a serious grievance would be established.

MR. PICKARD said he had to thank the Lord Advocate for his suggestion as to the Court of Appeal, and he could only hope that the Government would do something of the kind for this country.

Amendment agreed to.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. J. ATKINSON, Londonderry, N.) moved, at the end of Section (9), to add:—

"(10) In the application of this schedule to Ireland, the expression 'County Court Judge' shall include the Recorder of any city or town."

Amendment agreed to.

Schedule, as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Bill, as amended, reported amid general cheering.

In reply to Mr. PARKER SMITH,

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY stated that the Report stage would be put down *pro forma* for Thursday 17th June.

MR. WOODS said it would be for the general convenience of those interested in the Bill if some idea could be given as to when the Report stage would be really taken.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.) replied that the Report stage would not be taken until early in July.

Order made that the Bill be printed.—[Bill 287.]

CONGESTED DISTRICTS (SCOTLAND) [GRANTS].

Considered in Committee.

[The CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS, Mr. J. W. LOWTHER, in the Chair.]

THE LORD ADVOCATE moved:—

"That it is expedient to authorise the payment, out of money to be provided by Parliament, of a sum not exceeding £20,000, for the improvement of congested districts in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, and to make provision for the administration and application of the sums available for such purpose."

THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS put the question, and declared the Resolution agreed to.

MR. CALDWELL protested against the Motion being passed in that way, observing that he had intended to make some observations, but was waiting in the expectation that an explanation would be given by the Lord Advocate, who had in fact risen for that purpose at the moment the Resolution was put from the Chair.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY said there was no desire whatever on the part of the Government to prevent any explanation of the Resolution. Such explanation, however, could be given by the Lord Advocate on the Report stage.

Resolution to be reported upon Thursday 17th June.

PUBLIC OFFICES (WHITEHALL SITE) (RE-COMMITTED) BILL.

Considered in Committee and reported, without Amendment; Read the Third time, and passed.

PATENT OFFICE EXTENSION (RE-COMMITTED) BILL.

Considered in Committee, and reported, without Amendment; Read the Third time, and passed.

EXTRAORDINARY TITHE BILL.

Considered in Committee.

Clause 1,—

REMOVAL OF DOUBT AS TO INCIDENCE OF AND APPORTIONMENT OF RENT CHARGE ON ACCOUNT OF EXTRAORDINARY TITHE RENT CHARGE.

(1.) Where the Commissioners or the Board of Agriculture have certified under the principal Act the capital value of an extraordinary charge on a farm or parcel of land described in their certificate, the annual rentcharge under the principal Act shall be and be deemed always to have been a charge on the farm or parcel of land so described.

(2.) The enactments relating to the alteration of an apportionment of ordinary tithe rentcharge shall apply to the annual rentcharge under the principal Act as if it were apportioned tithe rentcharge within the meaning of the said enactments, and any part of the annual rentcharge which is apportioned may be separately redeemed under the principal Act, and the amount of the capital value payable for the redemption of each such part shall be in proportion to the altered apportionment.

MR. T. LOUGH (Islington, W.) asked for some explanation of the Measure.

*THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. WALTER LONG, Liverpool, West Derby) thought the hon. Gentleman could not have been present on the Second Reading when he gave an explanation to the House of the object of the Bill. The object was to remove a misapprehension which existed at the present time, and which had tended to alter what was the unquestionable intention of Parliament when the last Act was passed in 1886. The object of the Measure was two-fold. In the first place whereas extraordinary tithe had been payable up to that date only in respect of that portion of the farm or parcel of land which was then under cultivation for extraordinary purposes, and whereas at the same time any one bringing land under cultivation of an extraordinary character became at once liable to pay extraordinary tithe, it was urged that there was a difficulty in the way of the tithe owner, inasmuch as he could not identify the particular parcel of land liable to the extraordinary tithe. On the other hand there was a difficulty in the way of the cultivator, as he became liable to extraordinary payment so soon as he had brought the land under cultivation, even if it might not be remunerative for the first few years. This led to the compromise which existed at the time of the passing of the Extraordinary Tithe Act of 1886. The extraordinary tithe so taken as existing was capitalised at so many years' purchase, and interest at 4 per cent. on the capitalised value was fixed as the sum payable in respect of the extraordinary tithe on that particular parcel of land. On the other hand the tithe owner was given the increased advantages of being able to claim this sum of extraordinary tithe upon the whole farm and not upon that portion of it which up to 1886 had been liable. The arrangement advantaged both tithe owner and tithe payers, and the Bill had met with no opposition in that House, there being no Amendment on the Paper. He hoped the hon. Gentleman would deem this explanation satisfactory.

MR. LAURENCE HARDY (Kent, Ashford) could not agree with the right hon. Gentleman that there was no opposition at all in the districts concerned about this matter.

MR. LONG: I said in this House.

MR. HARDY said it was rather difficult to understand the exact bearing of this clause, owing to the great changes which might have taken place since the Act of 1886 was passed. He did not in any way wish to delay the passing of the Bill, because the right hon. Gentleman had assured him that it was absolutely necessary to the proper carrying out of the compromise so arrived at; but he could not allow the clause to go through Committee without expressing his doubt whether it might not in its terms cause new difficulties in connection with this particular charge.

MR. CARVELL WILLIAMS (Notts, Mansfield) said the right hon. Gentleman had not explained to the House the meaning of extraordinary tithe. As some hon. Members knew, it was leviable on land upon which hops were grown—[Mr. LONG: "Not hops alone!"]—and the Act to which the right hon. Gentleman had referred was the result of an inquiry by a Select Committee. He understood this Measure made no alteration in the substance of the law, but simply met a technical difficulty which had occurred in the administration of the law. He thought, therefore, the Bill ought to be allowed to pass through.

Clause ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 2,—

SHORT TITLE.

(2.) This Act may be cited as the Extraordinary Tithe Act 1897, and shall be construed as one with the Extraordinary Tithe Redemption Act 1886, and that Act and this Act may be cited collectively as the Extraordinary Tithe Acts 1886 and 1897.

Clause ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Bill reported without Amendment; Read the Third time, and passed.

SUPPLY.

Committee deferred till Thursday 17th June.

WAYS AND MEANS.

Committee deferred till Friday 18th June.

Whereupon Mr. Speaker, in pursuance of the Order of the House of 3rd June, adjourned the House without question put.

House Adjourned at Half after One o'Clock till Thursday 17th June.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Thursday, 17th June 1897.

The House resumed after the Whitsuntide Recess.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

COLLISIONS AT SEA.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): To move: "That this House is of opinion that the new Regulations for preventing Collisions at Sea are at once incomplete, unnecessarily lengthy, complicated, and inconsistent with each other; and that they will seriously add to the dangers of the seas."—[*Tuesday, 6th July.*]

PUBLIC REVENUE.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: To move: "That this House cannot be the effectual guardian of the Revenues of the State unless the whole amount of the taxes and of various other sources of income received for the Public Account be either paid in or accounted for to the Exchequer."—[*Tuesday, 13th July.*]

QUESTIONS.

QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE.

MR. B. L. COHEN (Islington, E.): I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works whether he is aware that Civil Servants have been charged the sum of 12s. 6d. for each seat to view the Diamond Jubilee Procession on a stand erected by Her Majesty's Office of Works; and whether, out of the sum so received from Civil Servants, seats have been provided on the stand gratis for the accommodation of other persons who are not Civil Servants?

THE FIRST COMMISSIONER OF WORKS (Mr. AKERS-DOUGLAS, Kent, St. Augustine's): The answer to the first part of the Question of my hon. Friend is in the affirmative. As to the second part, no seats are provided gratis out of the sum so received.

SIR WILLIAM WILLS (Bristol, E.) asked whether the First Commissioner of Works could arrange to have back rails attached to the Jubilee seats provided for hon. Members and their friends. The seats as at present provided consisted of mere forms, which would be very fatiguing to sit upon for several hours?

MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS: I do not think that it would be possible at the present time to make any such alteration as would admit of that being done.

MR. J. M. MACLEAN (Cardiff) asked whether the seats were to remain quite uncovered, so that hon. Members and their friends might be exposed to the inconvenient effects of either the sun or the rain?

MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS: I am afraid that it would be impossible now to erect any awning over the seats. I must point out that great consideration has been shown by the officials of the House who have windows overlooking the road, and in the circumstances I should not like to block the whole of their view.

SIR WILFRID LAWSON (Cumberland, Cockermouth): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he can recommend to Her Majesty, on the coming celebration of her long reign, to release Arabi Pacha and his fellow Egyptian political exiles from the detention which they have endured for the last 15 years?

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Mr. G. CURZON, Lancashire, Southport): I have nothing to add to the answer which I gave to a Question on the same subject put by the hon. Member for South Mayo on February 8 last.

SIR WILFRID LAWSON: Can the right hon. Gentleman give the substance of that answer?

MR. CURZON: The substance of the answer I then gave was a negative. ["Hear, hear!"]

SIR WILFRID LAWSON: Arising out of that answer, may I ask whether these men are to be kept in perpetual exile by way of punishment or by way of precaution?

MR. CURZON: With all respect I do not think that that Question does arise out of my answer.

SCOTTISH FISHERY BOARD.

MR. J. G. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate, as representing the Secretary for Scotland, whether his attention has been called to a statement in the Fifteenth Annual Report of the Fishery Board for Scotland to the effect that three-fourths of the Stornoway catch of herrings is annually exported to St. Petersburg, and that in 1896 a very serious loss was caused to the exporters through delay due to insufficient wharfage accommodation in getting the herrings unshipped at that port; and is he in a position to say whether any steps have been taken to have this matter represented to the Russian Government; and, if so, with what result?

*THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire): Representations on this subject have from time to time been made by the Fishery Board and exporters of cured herrings to the Foreign Office, with the result that intimation was received in April last through the British Ambassador at St. Petersburg, that the Russian Minister of Finance had instructed the Customs authorities to grant more wharfage accommodation for landing barrels of herrings, and that the Ambassador's request for additional shedding had been forwarded to the Municipal Authorities—a statement which was extensively published through the medium of the Press some time ago.

COMMITTEES (HOUSE OF LORDS).

MR. CUMMING MACDONA (Southwark, Rotherhithe): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he will consider the advisability of making arrangements by which it will be possible to obtain from the House of Lords authentic copies of the evidence taken before Committees in that House on Bills that afterwards have to be considered in this House; and whether, in view of the fact that Members of this House have to legislate upon those Bills, he will take steps to secure that copies of that evidence be printed and laid upon the Table of this House, and distributed amongst the Members of it?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): In reply to the Question of the hon. Member, I have to state that I have made inquiries into this matter, and I find that it is possible to obtain copies of the evidence given before the House of Lords' Committees whenever it is desired. But at the same time it is clearly inexpedient to go to the expense of printing the vast amount of evidence in connection with unopposed Bills, and it would be hard to distinguish between opposed and unopposed Bills. If, however, any distinction can be drawn between them, I shall be glad to consult the authorities of the two Houses upon the subject.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs) asked whether any Scotch Votes would be taken that night?

MR. J. H. DALZIEL (Kirkcaldy Burghs) said that, before the right hon. Gentleman answered that Question, he should like to ask whether, in the event of Supply being got through at an early hour, the right hon. Gentleman would consent to the adjournment of the House?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: As hon. Members are aware, my view is that, on nights when Supply is notified as the first Order, the Government ought not to ask the House to legislate. ["Hear, hear!"] But I think that this doctrine ought not to be pressed as far as to prevent our taking the Report stage of the Congested Districts (Scotland) Resolution. When that is finished, I will move that the House adjourn. ["Hear, hear!"]

DR. FARQUHARSON (Aberdeenshire, W.) asked whether, if Supply were not finished at Twelve o'clock, the right hon. Gentleman would consent to progress being reported?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: Yes, certainly, in order that the Lord Advocate may make his promised statement on the Congested Districts (Scotland) Bill.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES asked what Votes in Supply would be taken tomorrow?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: To-morrow I propose to take the unfinished Votes in Class 2.

MR. W. AMBROSE (Middlesex, Harrow) asked whether the right hon. Gentleman could say when the Land Transfer Bill would be brought in?

AN HON. MEMBER: Never. [*Laughter.*]

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: I do not associate myself with the gloomy prophecy of my hon. Friend behind me, but I cannot state precisely when the Bill will be introduced.

MR. J. CARVELL WILLIAMS (Notts, Mansfield) asked what business would be taken on Monday?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: On Monday the first business will be the Motion for an Address to Her Majesty on the subject of the Jubilee, and afterwards the Scotch Education Bill will be introduced by the Lord Advocate, subsequent to which the Scotch Congested Districts Bill will be proceeded with.

QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE.

COMMEMORATION SERVICE IN ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY moved,

> "That, in celebration of the 60th year of Her Majesty's reign, this House will attend at the Church of St. Margaret, Westminster, on Sunday next, the 20th June."

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.) said that he did not intend to oppose this Motion, because he felt that he should have no right to endeavour to prevent hon. Members who agreed with it from acting upon it, but he was bound to say that many Irish Members could not accept the proposal. He confessed it was not a pleasant task that he had undertaken, and he might say that, whatever faults Irishmen might have, they were as a rule both sympathetic and generous, and it would have been very much more satisfactory for them to have joined with those who were taking part in these celebrations than to stand aloof; but after having had 15 years' experience in that House he felt in his own heart and conscience that when a Motion of this kind was brought forward he should be simply a coward and unworthy of respect if he did not say what he thought and what he was certain was thought by the vast majority of the Irish people in regard to this subject. He had no intention of saying anything against the position taken by British Members on this matter—indeed, he might go further and say that from the British point of view the people of Great Britain had every right and reason to celebrate the 60th year of Her Majesty's reign. From the English or British point of view the people had every right and reason to celebrate and honour as much as they could the reign of Her Majesty. For England Her Majesty's reign had been a record of success unparalleled, perhaps, in the history of the world. They had had an increase in prosperity, in population, and in everything that went to make their country great and popular. From the Irish point of view it was quite the opposite. He did not for a single moment say that it was the fault of the Sovereign that things had been in Ireland as they had been, but he did say that, with the record of these 60 years before them, it would be the merest mockery for any Irishman to participate in this celebration. They would be really hypocrites if they did so. The representatives of the British dependencies from every portion of the world were now on a visit to this country, and they came here joyfully, gladly, contentedly, and loyally, because they had given to every one of those dependencies everything they had denied to Ireland. They had given to those dependencies the right to make their own laws as they thought best. They had denied to them in Ireland the right to make their own laws. They had made the laws for them and sent an English Minister to administer them. On the occasion to which this Motion referred the vast majority of the representatives of the Irish people would be absent, and that certainly should be food for reflection. He knew it was hard for hon. Gentlemen opposite to understand the action of himself and of men like him in saying one discordant note on that occasion. But he did not apologise for doing so; and in doing so he knew he was acting as the people who sent him there would wish him to act. In England they had been brought up to honour their Government, and their flag as giving them freedom and prosperity. They in Ireland had been brought up to regard the Government and the flag of this country as the source of a very good deal of the misery and decay that had come upon their country. In this country they were celebrating 60 years of prosperity almost unrivalled. They in Ireland would be celebrating next year another occasion. They would be celebrating the centenary of a rebellion which destroyed and ruined their country. The First Lord of the Treasury might think what he was saying was a matter for laughter, but he could assure him that he was voicing the view of the people he was sent to that House to represent. As he had said, they would be celebrating next year the rebellion of 100 years ago, when their people, by outrage and torture, were driven to take up arms in self-defence. It was impossible for an Irishman to look around and see in the streets of that great city all the signs of power and rejoicing and gladness without having his mind cast back to the almost lifeless and decaying condition of the streets of the towns and cities of his own country. They in Ireland had nothing to rejoice at. They could not rejoice with them upon that occasion, because they had denied to them what they had given to the poorest and weakest of their dependencies. When they gave them the same right to participate in their rejoicings as they had given to every one of their dependencies, then, and not till then, would they rejoice with them. They were not great, powerful, and rich like this country, but still they in Ireland had something to be proud of, weak and poor as they were. They were proud of the fact that the passage of no number of years, the use of no amount of force, had ever been able, or would ever be able to make them relinquish the demand which they made at the commencement of the Queen's reign, which they had made yearly for every one of these 60 years, and which they made again to-day—the demand for the right to govern themselves in their own country and according to their own ideas. When the rest of their Empire was assembling, the world, far and near, would see the strange spectacle presented of the vast majority of the Irish people—a country at their own doors—unrepresented and standing aloof, because, in spite of everything they had done, they were still discontented, and would remain so until they gave them their liberty. Was there a single representative of their Colonies who would be here to-day if they attempted to impose upon them the same government that they imposed upon Ireland? If they put in force, in the poorest of their Colonies, the same government that was enforced in Ireland through Dublin Castle and the Viceroy, they would not stand it for 24 hours. [*Cheers.*] It ought certainly to be a good reason for listening to their demands that, in every portion of the Empire where they had given freely what they in Ireland asked for, the results had been good. Therefore he would say let the absence of the Irish Members upon this occasion be the means of making the British people think whether it would not be better after all to conciliate and to content the Irish people, and whether after all, it would not be a greater glory to have a contented and satisfied nation at their own doors than to satisfy and conciliate peoples in other portions of the world.

SIR ARTHUR FORWOOD (Lancashire, Ormskirk) asked the First Lord of the Treasury where it was proposed that Members should assemble on Sunday?

MR. SPEAKER said that question might be put after the Motion was carried.

Motion agreed to.

SIR ARTHUR FORWOOD addressed his question to Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: So far as the matter lies with me, I propose that the same course should be followed that was followed on the last occasion. That is that I should enter the House from behind the Chair a quarter of an hour before the time fixed for service, which in this case, is half-past 11, and that I should take my seat in the Clerk's chair for a few minutes. Then, that I should go into the Lobby, and, with the small procession which is usually formed on such an occasion, proceed through St. Stephen's Hall into Westminster Hall where we should be joined by others who are not Members of this House. We should go through Westminster Hall into Palace Yard and so to the west door of St. Margaret's Church. The usual course, I believe, is for the Speaker to be followed immediately by the Privy Councillors, and the other Members of the House will follow them.

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

SUPPLY.

[ELEVENTH ALLOTTED DAY.]

Considered in Committee.

[The CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS, Mr. J. W. LOWTHER, in the Chair.]

CIVIL SERVICE ESTIMATES, 1897-8.

CLASS IV.

1. Motion made and Question proposed,

"That a sum, not exceeding £4,306,910, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1898, for Public Education in England and Wales, including expenses of the Education Office in London."

THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL (Sir JOHN GORST, Cambridge University): The sum voted last year for elementary education amounted to £7,275,000 — almost exactly the sum which was expended. It was an increase on the expenditure of the previous year of no less than £339,985, and this increase was caused almost entirely, as is usual in the Educational Estimates, under the sub-heads of the Vote—the increase in the annual grants to day scholars, the increase in the annual grants for evening scholars, the increase in the fee grants, the additional grants to School Boards, and the additional grants to training colleges. The addition to the expenditure of the year is almost entirely caused by what are called automatic increases, over which neither the Education Department nor Her Majesty's Treasury have practically any control. The Estimate for the present year amounts to £7,306,940, showing an increase over the estimated expenditure of last year of nearly £31,603, but that small apparent increase is really fallacious, because last year provision was made in the Estimates for the passing of the Eduaction Bill, 1896, and the effect of the passing of that Act would have been to have provided a sum in round numbers of £100,000 for necessitous schools. But as the Bill did not pass, the provision of the sum did not become necessary, and in order to spend it, payments under the existing law on existing schools were accelerated. Inspectors were instructed to be diligent in preparing their reports, the Department was diligent in examination of accounts, and the amount of £100,000 was paid out before March 31, which amount, in the ordinary and normal state of circumstances, would not have been paid until after that date; therefore, the expenditure for the current year was £100,000 beyond that of the previous year. When correction is made for that circumstance, it lessens the increase of last year by about £100,000, and increases the Estimate for the present year by about the same amount. The increase in expenditure for the last four years has been as follows:—£326,000 in the year 1893-94, £259,000 in 1894-95, £275,000 in 1895-96, and the corrected amount for 1896-97 should be £240,000, and the increase in the present year over last year would be about £230,000. There are some small items of increase and decrease with which I think I need not trouble the Committee, because the last increase is due to automatic causes, the greater number of children on the school books earning larger grants, and these causes are not under the control of the Department; they follow the natural development of education in the country. The annual grants for day scholars in the present year are estimated to amount to £4,338,000 and provide for an average attendance of 4,487,000 at the rate of 19s. 4d. per scholar. The average attendance has increased in the current year by 98,000 scholars, or 2·26 per cent., about double the increase which could be attributed to the natural increase of population. The proportion of attendance to numbers on the books, has I am sorry to say, remained stationary, for although there has been an increase in the numbers in average attendance, the ratio between these and the numbers on the books remains unaltered, showing that the Compulsory Attendance Act has now reached its maximum effect, and that no increase in the proportionate attendance can be looked for unless some reform in the law or addition to the law should take place. I have so often referred to the unsatisfactory state of school atendance and the unsatisfactory manner in which the law is administered in many parts of the country, that I will not now pursue the subject any further, because it is a matter that can only be dealt with by legislation. The grants for evening schools show an increase of £34,084, providing for 172,000 scholars at 18s. per scholar. These schools I do not refer to as secondary education schools; they provide an education just a degree above that given in elementary schools. There are at present 1,530 evening schools maintained by School Boards, educating 180,216 scholars, and receiving grants from the Education Department under the Act to the amount of £82,835. There are under Voluntary School management 2,212 evening schools, generally smaller in size, and these provide education for 118,508 pupils, receiving grants under the Code amounting to £46,706. I have tried to find out the number of adults in evening schools, but accurate figures have not been obtained. So far as I can ascertain, the proportion of adults in evening schools under voluntary managers is 13·38 per cent., and in similar schools under Board management 11·07 per cent. It would appear that, though these evening schools afford the opportunity to adults over 21 years of age to obtain knowledge they may desire, they are not largely availed of by adults, the scholars being mainly those who have left elementary schools and have not reached the adult age. These evening schools are receiving no grants from other Departments of State, except for drawing from the Science and Art Department, and on this account they receive grants in common with elementary schools. Some of these evening schools receive grants from the Technical Committees of County Councils, and there are besides throughout the country 309 schools under Technical Instruction Committees educating 20,977 students, and these schools are receiving grants from the Science and Art Department amounting to £11,000. There are 125 mixed grade evening schools educating 28,846 scholars, and grants to these amount to £20,722; so that, although the great bulk of evening students are under the Education Department and are provided for in schools under the Code, there are a considerable number side by side with these schools, and in some places no doubt competing with them, who are under the Instruction Committees of County Councils, and who derive the assistance they have from public money, by the local taxation grants partly, and partly from the Science and Art Department. Besides these, the Science and Art Department itself has a number of evening schools—no less than 1,650 evening schools conducted by committees and other bodies acting under the Science and Art Department. They educate 168,335 children, and receive grants from the Department amounting to £103,903.

MR. A. J. MUNDELLA (Sheffield, Brightside): These are not Science and Art schools?

SIR J. GORST: What I want to point out is that there are three classes of schools—first of all, schools under the Elementary Education Code, in round numbers educating 300,000 young people; there are the County Council Schools educating about 48,000 or 49,000 scholars; and then there are science and art schools educating 168,335 scholars. So that you have three different classes of schools under three different sorts of management, sometimes operating in the same place, sometimes in competition with each other, and, no doubt, throwing away a considerable amount of power. The worst of this state of things is this: You must recollect that it is not a stationary state of things, but it is on the increase, and a rapid increase. The worst of it is that there exists already a number of what are called vested interests, which are very rapidly increasing. When a school gets a grant, whether it is from the Education Department, or from local taxation money, or from the Science and Art Department, the management of that school look upon it as a sort of endowment which they have a right to expect will continue, and if any kind of reform is proposed in the administration of public grants they ask themselves what effect the proposed reform will have upon the receipts of their particular school, and if they find, or imagine they find, that there is a risk of the grant earned by their own particular school being diminished or injuriously affected by any reform, however excellent it may be in itself, they immediately show hostility to it and objection is raised to the reform which makes any kind of change in the system—whether by legislation or by administrative means—almost impossible. The moral of that state of things is that—every year which passes over our heads without a proper reorganisation of our system of higher education above the elementary, not only makes the problem more complicated and more difficult of solution, but raises up a crop of opposition to any kind of reform that may be proposed, which may make either legislation or administrative reform absolutely impossible. ["Hear, hear!"] Perhaps I may now call the attention of the Committee to another part of an educational work, namely, that done in the schools for blind and deaf children, which is also making very considerable progress. In the present year the increase is £5,335, and the sum earned now amounts to £17,527 a year. This increase is mainly due to the rate of grant per scholar, which has increased from £3 10s. 9d. to £4 4s. The grants allowed for blind and deaf children are £3 3s. per scholar for ordinary elementary instruction, and £2 2s. per scholar for manual instruction and industrial training. Thus, under the heading of manual instruction and industrial training, the grants have increased; and this is shown by the figures I will now quote. In 1894-95, while 3,121 children were paid for elementary instruction, only 1,937 earned grants for manual instruction; but in 1895-96, out of 3,742 paid for elementary instruction, no fewer than 3,611 received grants for manual instruction, showing that under the improved arrangements of the present day almost every blind child not only received elementary instruction, but also received manual instruction, which in many instances enables them to earn their own livelihood and become valuable members of society. ["Hear, hear!"] This result of the new Act, which was to some extent an experiment, is highly satisfactory—["hear, hear!"]—and ought to encourage Parliament and the country in proceeding in this and in analogous cases with some degree of confidence. ["Hear, hear!"] I do not know that I ought to prolong my remarks to the Committee. We have already had so many discussions on education this year, and so much general matter has been already repeated, that I think I will now leave the Estimates to the consideration of the Committee. I would only mention one thing—that these Estimates are quite outside the legislation of the present Session. No provision is made for the special aid grant to the Voluntary Schools or the special grant to the School Boards which are necessitous. In the Estimates I had the honour of submitting to the House there was provision made for larger payments to School Boards under the 97th Section of the Act of 1870, because the Debates of last year had called general public attention to the existence of that provision, and many School Boards which had not apparently heard of it before, or who had not taken the trouble to make application under it, sent in applications for the money. Therefore, although the law remained as it was, there is some considerable excess in the Estimates under this head as compared with the Vote of last year. But of course this increase will be small in comparison with the very much larger sum which the benevolence of Parliament has voted.

Viscount CRANBORNE (Rochester): When will my right hon. Friend present the Supplementary Estimates?

Sir JOHN GORST: I cannot give any date for that at present.

*Mr. J. H. YOXALL (Nottingham, W.) said the right hon. Gentleman had devoted the greater part of his speech to matters not directly connected with the ordinary elementary schools. In many respects things were, no doubt, going well with the elementary schools. The great internal reforms instituted by the Department in the method of assessing the grant and testing the work of the schools—which had only come into full operation during the past 12 months—were undoubtedly producing greater zest, intelligence, and pleasure in the work, which would before long remove the reproaches that our elementary school work was mechanical, dull, and not conducive to a continuation of study after leaving school. ["Hear, hear!"] The right hon. Gentleman, in a somewhat awe-inspired tone, had given the Committee some round figures as to the national expenditure on elementary education. No doubt our elementary schools were now costing seven millions a year. But we were spending 20s. per head of population on the Army and Navy, and only 5s. per head on the schools. He did not object to the expenditure on the Army and Navy, but he held that 5s. per head on schools was a most unsatisfactory sum. Although the general work was progressing, a good deal of money and effort was wasted because of the early age at which children left school. [" Hear, hear ! "] According to the returns published last year, out of 5,300,000 children attending school, there were only 700,000 over 12 years of age, only 250,000 over 13, and only 53,000 over 14. If they contrasted that with the rule obtaining abroad in nearly every civilised country, it would be found that the state of things in England was less satisfactory than anywhere else. In every civilised country on the Continent of Europe, at any rate, the compulsory age was higher than with us. Then, again, in Germany, Belgium, Holland, Sweden, and Norway, foreign languages were taught the children. That was not the case in this country to any appreciable extent. At present the teaching of languages and other desirable subjects was quite impossible as long as so many of the children left school at so early an age and while the schools were hampered with the present cumbersome system of money and weights and measures instead of the metric system. He estimated that the teaching of this system occupied two years of the child's school life, and much of that time could be devoted to languages and other branches of education were the decimal system adopted. Another matter deserving the attention of the Committee was the insufficient number of teachers employed. In many schools in this country, even the wealthiest Board Schools, they would find the classes far too large for one teacher to control and teach. In the month of January this year, under the Manchester School Board, there were 50 classes of between 70 and 80 children each, 20 classes of between 80 and 90, 12 classes of between 90 and 100, and 11 classes of over 100 children each, with one teacher only to each class. In Denmark no teacher was allowed to teach more than 30 children, and in America and the colonies the same rule applied. In New Zealand the maximum number in charge of one teacher was 32 ; in Holland, 40 ; and in France and Switzerland, 50. In the case of secondary schools in England and Wales there were 12 children in average attendance per teacher, and whereas in the organised science and art schools there were 40 children per teacher, the classes in elementary schools varied from 60, 70, and 80 up to 100 for each teacher. They had an expenditure of over £7,000,000 of public money per year upon the schools which were used by the children for only a few brief years of their life, and yet they found children receiving lessons from teachers who were engaged in instructing classes comprising from 60 to 100 children. That, he contended, was false economy. It was spoiling the ship for the sake of a half-pennyworth of tar. Until the Education Department insisted that there should be larger staffs in the schools, a good deal of the money which was now voted for the work of education year by year must continue to be very largely wasted. If they compared the state of things in Scotland with that which existed in England and Wales, they would find the advantage was much in favour of the former. The average number of children for each certificated teacher in England and Wales was 112. In Scotland it was 64. In England and Wales, whilst 55 per cent. of the teachers were adults, in Scotland the proportion was 82 per cent. In England and Wales only 39 per cent. of the teachers were certificated, but in Scotland the proportion was 50 per cent. The Education Department had fostered the growth of an army of unqualified teachers, who were qualified only under Article 68. There were thus employed in 1889-90 only 5,000 of such teachers, but they had now grown to 12,000. It was most important that the Education Department should take guarantees that every adult teacher employed in a school should be able to satisfy a reasonable test of capacity, first of all in the matter of knowledge themselves, and, secondly, in the matter of their ability to teach. Such tests were not applied to Article 68 teachers, and there was no guarantee in the case of any one of them that they were persons who could or ought to be allowed to teach in a school. If it were not for these 12,000 unqualified teachers, the number of scholars per adult teacher would be much greater than now. The Rev. T. W. Sharpe, the senior Chief Inspector of Schools, speaking on this subject, said,—

> "The evil of large classes has caused infinite mischief, especially to the voice of the teacher and to the discipline of the class. Even an able and intelligent teacher excites only a small influence upon the backward members of a class of 60 scholars, and much less when the number is exceeded. He may check disorder, but the lesson produces little effect upon the character or the intelligence of the backward or unwilling scholar."

Medical men would tell them that there was a disease becoming prevalent called teachers' sore throat. That was one evidence of the strain put upon teachers by the existence of large classes in schools. He had himself received evidence in very many ways of the increasing amount of breakdown among teachers of elementary schools resulting from the large classes allowed by the permissive regulations of the Education Department. It was not only a question of strain upon the voice, but upon the general health. When a teacher had spent his or her life in hard work among large classes, and then broke down prematurely or managed to live on until the age of 60 or 65, there was no satisfactory provision whatever of a retiring allowance for such teacher. He felt bound to charge the Government with procrastination and delay, resulting in the disappointment of the reasonable expectations of the teachers in the matter of superannuation. In 1888 a Royal Commission on Elementary Education unanimously recommended a system of State-aided superannuation for teachers in elementary Schools. In 1892 a Select Committee of the House also unanimously recommended such a system. The following year the House of Commons unanimously resolved that it was desirable to establish such a system at an early date. In 1895 a Departmental Committee, representing the Education Department, brought forward a scheme to give effect to that Resolution, and in June of the same year the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Monmouth (Sir W. Harcourt), having recently ceased to be Chancellor of the Exchequer, wrote as follows:—

> "It is a great disappointment to me that the sudden termination of our official existence prevented the public announcement of my decision to introduce a Bill to provide for teachers' pensions. Authority was given in the Treasury to draw up a Bill which has been framed generally upon the lines of the Report of the Departmental Committee. I am sorry we did not survive long enough to carry out this necessary good work."

On the 28th of August, 1895, the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the present Estimates used these words:—

> "The matter has passed beyond the stage of controversy and dispute. I think the Committee may feel a tolerable amount of confidence that next Session a Measure will be laid upon the Table of the House."

On the 13th of February, 1896, the First Lord of the Treasury said:—

> "The Government have hopes of being able to introduce a Bill this Session,"

and on the 21st of the same month the Vice President said:—

> "I earnestly hope that many weeks will not elapse before I introduce a Bill providing for the superannuation scheme which the House desires to pass, and which everybody else desires to have passed."

They had now reached June of 1897. Such a Bill had not been introduced, and no definite pledge had been given as to the date of its introduction. He was perfectly aware that the Government were benevolently inclined, and that the Vice President himself would introduce a Bill at once if he could do so. He hoped the Debate would not close without the right hon. Gentleman giving the Committee some definite promise that this long-deferred measure of justice to the teachers of this country should not be delayed later than next Session. He wished to raise one other point which had a distinct bearing on the celebration of the coming week. Some time ago he asked the right hon. Gentleman whether, on behalf of the Education Department, he would consent to the requirement of 400 attendances per year being reduced to 390 in order to enable the elementary schools, where the managers desired it, to be closed during the whole of the next week. He did not receive a very satisfactory answer. Since that reply was given, Her Majesty had herself, by the *Court Circular*, expressed her desire that the schools should be closed, so that the children could enjoy in their own way and have reason to remember the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee by an addition to their summer holidays in June. He desired to point out that in the case of the elementary schools they would have to deprive the children of one week of their summer holidays if they gave this next week in honour of the Jubilee. He ventured to hope that it would be made clear that where the managers of schools were anxious to close during the Jubilee week, an allowance would be made to them for that one week by a relaxation of Article 83.

SIR J. LUBBOCK (London University) said that the Committee approached the subject at some disadvantage, as the Report of the Committee had not yet been issued. He congratulated the Vice President on the satisfactory character of the statement he had been able to make. He concurred with the hon. Member for Nottingham in wishing that a decimal system of weights could be introduced. Our cumbrous and complicated system was a great drawback. He could not concur with the hon. Member for Nottingham in wishing to see foreign languages generally taught, though he admitted that there were special cases in which it might be desirable. On the other hand, the four principal class subjects should be encouraged in all schools. They were English, geography, history, and elementary science. The Code, however, only allowed children to be presented in two. Up to last year the Scotch Code allowed children to be presented in all four. As a matter of fact most Scotch children were presented in three of these subjects. They were able, therefore, to earn more money, and what was more important, they received a better education. At present most of the English schools took English and geography. The result was that elementary science was rarely taken up, and even English history was gradually dropping out of our system of elementary education. He did not ask the Government to make the four class subjects obligatory, but he did hope schools would be encouraged to give some elementary instruction in elementary science and in the history of our country. ["Hear, hear!"]

Mr. J. H. Yoxall.

MR. A. J. MUNDELLA (Sheffield, Brightside) said it was satisfactory to know that there were 5,300,000 children now on the registers of public elementary schools, but he regretted that 18½ per cent. of the children were absent from school every day. But the Free Education Act had raised the average attendance from 77 per cent. when the Act was passed to 81½ per cent. Still he agreed that some decided reform in the application of the compulsory clauses of the Education Act was necessary. In Continental schools it was not uncommon to find the average attendance 96 and 97 per cent. Having provided schools for children, and teachers, we ought also to provide that the children on the register should attend the schools regularly. In many parts of England, especially in the rural districts, the compulsory attendance clauses were scarcely enforced at all, and he was sorry to say that a good many magistrates had apparently made up their minds not to enforce them. A greater disservice to the cause of education could not be done, as the result was that the children in such districts were miserably educated. Moreover, the school attendance officer often had not sufficient time to attend to his duties, and was not sufficiently paid. In some cases children who had passed the school attendance age were not able to read or write, and it was disgraceful that such a state of things should exist now. One of the best features in the statement of the right hon. Gentleman was the increase of attendance in evening schools. There was no doubt that evening schools as a whole had been very beneficial, but our whole system of continuation schools was most extravagant, having regard to its results. ["Hear, hear!"] Immediately the children had attained a standard which would enable them to acquire a knowledge of such subjects as the right hon. Member for the London University had referred to, they were set free from school, and in two or three years had forgotten all they had learnt. ["Hear, hear!"] In a Return issued this year it was shown that the standards for partial exemption were two, three, and four; and the standards for total exemption were four, five and six. Large numbers of children who had passed only the second standard were allowed to enter upon half-time labour, and in the rural districts there were some 764 School Boards in which Standard IV. was the standard for total exemption. The time had come for a new advance in our elementary schools system. ["Hear, hear!"] In Germany, children were compelled to attend school until they were 14 years of age, after which they had to attend continuation school until 17 or, in case of need, 18 years of age. Such a system would make for the material success of our own country. In addition to raising the age limit, and requiring subsequent attendance at continuation schools, we ought also to get rid of the half-time system. As to the science and art classes, it was found, when our working men wished to join a plumbing class, for instance, that they had never been taught the use of a pencil and did not know enough arithmetic to make calculations, which made the task of the teachers a very difficult one. The education of the blind and deaf and dumb had been referred to, and he hoped they would soon get a further grant for this purpose. He thought that if possible those who were so afflicted should be trained until they were 19 or 20 years of age. They could not discuss the superannuation question on this Vote, but he believed that until we had an efficient system of superannuation there would be a great waste in our public expenditure. He hoped that the right hon. Gentleman next Session would give them an opportunity of passing a Superannuation Bill, and he did not think such a Measure would be contentious, as both sides of the House desired it. When the question of education was dealt with he hoped there would be less friction than there had been in the past. He felt that if we were the losers in the race for industrial or agricultural supremacy it would not be through lack of industry, capacity or resource, but through lack of intelligence, and it lay with the right hon. Gentleman to equip his countrymen for the struggle.

SIR W. HART DYKE (Kent, Dartford) said the statement of his right hon. Friend was satisfactory and interesting in many of its details. The right hon. Member for the Brightside Division had made some remarks of a very serious nature with reference to our present educational system and the grave difficulties which surrounded it and which hampered them when any reform was attempted. He had touched upon the utter absurdity of spending £7,300,000 per annum in elementary education with the knowledge that the great bulk of this sum was practically thrown away so far as the retention of that education by the children was concerned. ["Hear, hear!"] No step was taken in that direction except the voting of the pitiful sum of £154,815 which was asked for for continuation schools. These figures showed the weakness of our system. The difficulty they had to face in dealing with educational matters was the miserable religious difficulty. That difficulty had faced them in 1870, and it had harried and worried educational reformers up to the present day. It was an unfortunate state of things, but as it existed there was no doubt his right hon. Friend was following a wise course in making no indication of any change. All they could do at present was to watch and work. There had been indications during the late Debates that many hon. Members on both sides were looking for some vast change in our educational system. He himself believed that the day when a very large and comprehensive change must be made was not very far distant. [*Cheers.*] When we had reached a total sum of ten millions per annum for education—for the present Vote did not cover all our educational expenditure—he hoped the day was not far distant when some Minister might be wise enough and bold enough to say, "We will sweep away this religious difficulty once and for all; we are weary of it." There was only one way of doing so, and that was to make the State supply all the education of our children, and to make our educational system comprehensive, beginning with the Universities at the top and including good secondary education and elementary education. He hoped that all hon. Members who took a deep interest in these matters would come to feel that it was time that they buried the hatchet altogether so far as Party was concerned and would be bold enough to grapple with the question as a whole. When that day came it would be one of the happiest in the history of this country, and it would do more than anything else to secure the future prosperity of the country. ["Hear, hear!"]

MR. BRYNMOR JONES (Swansea Boroughs), referring to the appointment of Mr. Legard as Chief Inspector of Schools for Wales, said he did not wish to attack Mr. Legard's capacity, for he believed he was one of the ablest and most trustworthy officers in the employment of the Department; but, if he was correctly informed, Mr. Legard did not understand the Welsh language. If that was the case the right hon. Gentleman had reversed the policy of the Education Department in recent years, for during the last two Administrations it was commonly understood that inspectorships in Wales should, as far as possible, be given only to those who could speak the Welsh language. He thought it must be obvious that such a qualification was absolutely necessary. Seeing the large amount which Wales contributed to the support of the educational system of the country, and its intense interest in the progress of education, the people had a right to demand that the Government should send down a man to whom they could communicate their views in the language which they spoke. The late inspector, Mr. William Williams, whose loss they all deplored, was a gentleman who not only spoke the Welsh language but was thoroughly conversant with the educational needs of the Principality. The Education Department had made a great mistake in appointing the present inspector—a gentleman against whom, apart from his want of knowledge of the Welsh tongue nothing could be said—but he hoped it was an error that would be undone.

*MR. WILLIAM JONES (Carnarvon, Arfon) pointed out that in all the schools in North and West Wales, and in many schools in the South and East districts the children were taught English through the medium of Welsh; and it was therefore impossible for the inspector to conduct examinations unless he knew Welsh. Mr. Legard had not that essential qualification. Further, the Education Department had sanctioned a scheme to encourage the use of Welsh by inspectors in examining Welsh children. How could Mr. Legard, though a sound educationist, thoroughly grapple with the difficulties which would have to be referred to him with regard to the proper training of the Welsh mind? This was not a Party question. Even Members who represented Conservative seats in Wales had protested against the appointment of an inspector who did not speak Welsh, and if the right hon. Gentleman repaired the mistake which had been made, he would gratify the wishes of the entire people of the Principality. ["Hear, hear!"] There was another question, of general interest, to which he would like to draw attention. That was the question of pupil teachers. He thought there should be some scheme drawn up by which pupil teachers in England and Wales could be appointed at a more advanced age, and with a better educational training than at present. In Wales already they might, under an improved system, have the advantage of a Secondary Education at the Intermediate schools. They should continue in touch with that training after becoming engaged in the actual work of teaching previous to entering a training college. Two years at college were not enough. A third year added would enlarge the scope of their studies, and supply them with a more fitting equipment of culture. ["Hear, hear!"] He was opposed to giving to school teachers a purely professional training. They should be allowed to mix in the Colleges and Universities with men who were going to be Members of Parliament, barristers, doctors, engineers, and thereby have their intellectual outlook and their knowledge of men and things widened; above all, it was most desirable that pupil teachers should spend their earlier years in acquiring knowledge, and not in playing with their so-called pupils and acting as drudges. It was to be hoped the Departmental Committee now sitting would devise such a plan in the interests of true education, and the building up of noble citizens. ["Hear, hear!"]

VISCOUNT CRANBORNE said he had listened with great interest to the speech of his right hon. Friend the Member for Dartford, urging the great importance of undertaking a real, thorough, and substantial reform of our educational system. He agreed with his right hon. Friend that the religious difficulty was the great difficulty which stood in the way of that reform. The religious difficulty would always stand in the way. It must be accepted; it could not be ignored, and until hon.

Members opposite recognised that the religious convictions of all persons must be respected in the matter of education no great reform in our educational system was possible. Every parent, whether he was a Churchman, a Nonconformist, or a Roman Catholic, had an absolutely inalienable right, which no Education Act could take away from him, to have his children brought up in his faith; and if hon. Gentlemen opposite wanted a complete and satisfactory educational system, they must accept that conclusion and make their arrangements accordingly. His right hon. Friend the Vice President of the Council would remember that last year the Voluntary Schools brought under the notice of the Government the fact that under Article 73 of the Code a very large increase of staff was being imposed on them which they were unable to meet, and when it found that the Voluntary Schools Bill was not to be passed into law that year, and the relief the schools expected was therefore postponed, his right hon. Friend considered that a good case had been made out for suspending Article 73 for six months. He thought a strong case again existed for a further suspension of Article 73 until the Voluntary Schools received, under the Act passed this year, the money that was necessary to enable them to meet the requirements of the Code. Another point was that, considering the short time at the disposal of children under the present system, too many subjects were included in the school curriculum.

MR. MUNDELLA: Then why not extend the time? ["Hear, hear!"]

VISCOUNT CRANBORNE said he was perfectly certain the children were taught many things which were absolutely of no use to them in after life, and in that way a great deal of time and money were wasted. He agreed with the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Sheffield that there was a great deal to be said in favour of the extension of the school age, but he hardly thought the right hon. Gentleman was consistent in his remarks upon the subject. The right hon. Gentleman condemned what was called the half-time system—indeed, the evening continuation classes, of which they were all in favour, were only another form of that system. He was formerly connected with a very important manufacturing district, where the half-time system was very prevalent, and he knew that as a matter of fact the children really learnt as much in the half time as they would in the whole time. There was, however, a double advantage in the system; the children were educated, and they brought a certain amount of money to the household to which they belonged. He thought the right hon. Baronet the Member for the University of London was fully justified in protesting against the way in which the publication of the Report of the Education Department was delayed and not brought before Parliament in time for hon. Members to discuss it. Many of the methods which prevailed in the Department were open to a certain amount of amendment. Many of the statistics were extremely difficult to understand. For instance, there was no definition in the Blue-book of maintenance. To those very familiar with the subject, maintenance meant certain rather complicated numbers of subjects; but the average man did not know what was maintenance and what was not. There was a definition in former Blue-books, and it was well it should be repeated, as a certain amount of confusion arose from its absence. There was one other matter he wished to bring before the notice of the Committee, and that was the grievance felt by a certain number of districts who were compelled to contribute to the School Board rate, but who got no advantage from the Board Schools. That grievance was especially felt in those parishes which were combined in one district. There was a case in Bedfordshire where the old parish had been divided into several parishes for civil purposes, but not for School Board purposes. The consequence was that one parish contributed to the School Board rate and yet received no advantage from it. There were Church Voluntary Schools in the district, and the people, Nonconformists as well as Churchmen, were perfectly satisfied with them. It was felt to be a grievance that the people should be rated for the maintenance of Board Schools, and he trusted that the Government would agree to the division of the parish for School Board purposes.

*MR. CARVELL WILLIAMS (Notts, Mansfield) thought that it was a most unsatisfactory circumstance that the first two Sessions of a new Parliament had nearly passed away without anything having been accomplished towards the removal of the serious evils connected with our present educational system, which had been admitted to exist. They were about simply to vote a large sum of money for the maintenance of machinery, in the working of which Members on both sides of the House knew would be a large amount of waste; and he did not think that there was any bright prospect of a better result next Session. It was also a melancholy fact that there was so much of unpunctuality and irregularity in the attendance of children; but he believed that improvement would be effected, not so much by a change in the law as by a better administration of the existing law. If magistrates neglected to enforce it, the influence of public opinion must be brought to bear upon them, and it was only as the public were increasingly impressed with the practical value of education that that influence would be exercised. It was for that reason that he was a zealous advocate of public control in the matter of education; because control involved interest, and interest would promote efficiency. ["Hear, hear!"] He had again to call the attention of the Committee to what he regarded as the extraordinary action of the Education Department in refusing to order the appointment of a School Board for the town of Heywood in Lancashire. Last Session he had informed the House that, at the request of the Town Council, in June, 1895, the Department stated that an Order for the formation of a Board would be forthwith issued; but that, after the change of Government, it announced that it would defer doing so until after the municipal elections. He had further stated that the parents of 193 children had demanded free places; but the Department had replied that they must find them in the Church of England and Roman Catholic schools, though most of the parents were Nonconformists. And, lastly, he had described the bad sanitary condition of the schools. The case against the Department was still stronger now than it was a year ago; for the Town Council had for the second and third time renewed its request for a Board. The Department, however, after long delay, had refused compliance; on the ground that the Town Council did not represent the wishes of the majority of the inhabitants. How could that be justified? It must be assumed that when, in 1895, the Department decided that a School Board was necessary, it had sufficient reasons for that decision, which ought not to have been reversed without good grounds being shown. ["Hear, hear!"] He submitted that it was not the duty of the Department to go about fishing for evidence that the Town Council did not represent the views of the town's-people, or to connive at local intrigues to frustrate the Council's object. Since last Session a Nonconformist school at Heywood had been closed, and nearly 300 children had, as a consequence, been turned into the streets. Why should they not go into the other schools, it might be asked. The answer was that the parents had determined not to send their children to what they considered to be objectionable schools, and there were as many as 100 children still kept away. In that they had a large amount of public sympathy; which was shown by the fact that the School Attendance Committee had deferred prosecuting the parents until a decision had been arrived at by the Department, and the ex-mayor had promised to pay the fines of convicted parents. In fact, the school attendance machinery at Heywood seemed to be in abeyance. The parents objected to exposing the lives, the limbs, and the health of their children to danger by sending them to the existing schools. He had himself since last Session visited Heywood, and seen the schools, and therefore could speak with personal knowledge. ["Hear, hear!"] Many children had to come from the extreme ends of the town to the centre along a busy thoroughfare, through which there were tramway lines, and when they had reached the schools, they had to thread their way between three sets of steam cars—["hear, hear!"]—the locality was, in fact, so dangerous that some adults had been killed, and there had been three accidents to children, one of them being fatal. Then most of the existing schools were in an unsanitary condition. "Your child," said a local doctor to the parent of a sick scholar, "will never have good health as long as he goes to that school," and the same thing could be said of several of the Heywood schools. The reports of the officials who had visited the schools since last Session had fully justified the statements which he had then made. Mr. Freeland, the school inspector had done his best to whitewash the schools, metaphorically, if not literally; but he had described them as "schools of the old pattern," and of one of them he said that it appeared "not to have been designed on the best principles." He spoke of another as having the closets of adjacent cottages at the back, which were often offensive. Mr. Tatham, inspector of returns, was a good deal more graphic, and also more condemnatory, this being part of his report:—

> "There is a large receptacle for ashes and refuse at the end of the passage which can be made use of by anybody from the street. There are privies at the back of the boys' closets, and I gathered from the master that he had known them to be emptied during school hours. It is quite clear that the drainage of this school should be put in thorough order."

Mr. Cornish referred to four schools where the closets are on the pail system. In those schools there was "the primitive privy," with pits which were emptied occasionally; and this was his closing sentence:—

> "The buildings of several of the schools are old, and some of them were never intended to be used as schools. I agree, however, with Mr. Freeland in thinking that the time had hardly come for condemning any of them. I noted the ventilation of the school rooms, and there are several in which it is much to be desired that better provision should be made for the admission of fresh air."

When he (Mr. Williams) visited Heywood he found that some improvements in the schools had been effected, but the same descriptions still applied to several of the schools. These facts were indisputable, namely, that there was not a single school in the town of a modern type, and which could be said to meet the requirements of the present times; that the playgrounds were all too small, and that not one of them was asphalted, and that the situation of several of the schools was highly dangerous. He thought the strongest possible case for the appointment of a School Board had been made out—["hear, hear!"]—and that the Education Department never came to a wiser decision than when it resolved that one should be formed. He should be surprised if the Vice President of the Council could convince the House that that was not so; and he was sure that, if the Department remained obdurate in the matter, it would do a great wrong to the town of Heywood, and in many cases incalculable injury to the juvenile portion of the population. [*Cheers.*]

*MR. GEORGE KEMP (Lancashire, Heywood) said he had listened with great interest to the last speech, and was sure the inhabitants of Heywood ought to feel much obliged to the hon. Member for the interest he had taken in the school affairs of the town. ["Hear, hear!"] But that speech did not seem to him to exactly represent the whole case. Reference had been made to the fact that in June 1895, the Town Council passed a resolution in favour of a School Board by a majority of 18 to 2. When that resolution was passed there was great dissatisfaction felt among the ratepayers, who claimed that it did not represent the opinion of the town generally. A public meeting was called, at which an overwhelming majority voted against a School Board. ["Hear, hear!"] Representation was then made that the question should be further considered before a School Board was granted, and a deputation waited upon the Vice President of the Council, when it was suggested that a School Board should not be granted until after the next municipal election, in order that the feeling of the ratepayers might be further tested. Candidates for the Council, however, were unwilling to take their stand upon this question, because they knew they would have no chance; therefore, a poll was taken, with the result that by a majority of 666 the ratepayers decided they would not have a School Board. ["Hear, hear!"] The municipal election followed, and the candidates on their placards said the contests were not to be fought on that question. But, in spite of that, two of the School Board party were defeated. At the last municipal elections seats were again lost on this question, and when the last resolution in favour of a School Board was brought before the Town Council, instead of being agreed to by 18 votes to 2, it was agreed to by only 14 votes to 8. Thus it was shown that the ratepayers knew how to resent the overriding of their wishes, and he had no doubt that if the School Board question was raised again the ratepayers would act in a like fashion. ["Hear, hear!"] Reference had been made to the tramway service. As a matter of fact, he thought he was correct in saying that on that section of the lines the trams did not start running until nine o'clock, after the children had gone to school, and they only ran once every half-hour. Moreover, the children had only to cross the lines once to get to any of the schools. ["Hear, hear!"] It was not fair to say that the children who were said to be driven to the streets would have to go to Church of England or Roman Catholic schools. There were sufficient Nonconformist schools within reasonable distance to which they could go. ["Hear, hear!"] The hon. Member opposite had stated that the case for a School Board had grown stronger. He failed to see where the evidence of that was, because only this year a memorial was signed in a fortnight by 3,200 out of about 4,800 ratepayers against a School Board. ["Hear, hear!"] This agitation, which had been got up in Heywood, was not a *bonâ fide* agitation, but was an outside agitation. The decision of the Education Department had given the greatest satisfaction to the ratepayers of every party. [*Cheers.*]

Sir JOHN GORST said the only object of the Education Department was to administer the law. They did not care whether there was a School Board in Heywood or not. ["Hear, hear!"] The principle of the Act of 1870 was that where any district had not proper school accommodation the Department, after proper inquiry, should force a School Board upon the ratepayers; and it was constantly doing so. But where a district was supplied with accommodation, there was a kind of local option. The ratepayers could have a School Board if they liked, but, if they did not like it, they could adhere to the old scheme. It was also provided that the old Department might take the resolution of the Town Council of a borough as evidence of the wishes of the ratepayers, and in 99 cases out of 100 it did so. ["Hear, hear!") But in the particular case of Heywood, the Education Department had very good ground for supposing, from the facts which had been placed before them, that the Town Council did not represent the wishes of the people—["hear, hear!"]—and when they disagreed with the proposal to appoint a School Board the Town Council themselves put the matter to a test of their own accord by taking a poll of the inhabitants, who, by an overwhelming majority, declined to have a School Board. What could the Department do in those circumstances? ["Hear, hear!"] He was very sorry to say that he believed that what had been going on was an attempt on the part of the minority in Heywood to force their views on the majority. ["Hear, hear!"] It was true that representations had been made with respect to the insanitary condition of the schools, but inspectors were immediately sent to view them, and their report was laid before Parliament, and notice was at once given to the managers that the schools must forthwith be put in proper sanitary condition. That was now being done. If there was any ground for supposing that the managers were neglecting their duty in the matter, or were not using due diligence and expedition, there would be good ground for the Department taking strong measures. But while the ratepayers were supplied with a proper amount of school accommodation, it would be an act of gross tyranny on the part of the Department to force a School Board upon Heywood against the wishes of a majority of the ratepayers. ["Hear, hear!"] It had been said that parents would not send their children to the Church of England or Roman Catholic schools. He would remind the House that those people were protected by the conscience clause. ["Hear, hear!"] The teaching of religion in church schools, at all events, was confined to certain hours, and if the parents did not approve of the teaching they had a right to withdraw their children during those hours. Personally, he did not look upon the conscience clause as satisfactory. He wished every parent not only had a right to withdraw his child from such religious instruction as he disapproved of, but that he had an opportunity of having such religious instruction given as he did approve of. ["Hear, hear!"] But that was a privilege for which they must wait till an alteration in the law was made. The ratepayers of Heywood had the right of the Conscience Clause to the full, and nobody had a right to require them to be rated for the purpose of building schools in which they could have privileges which the law did not at present confer. [*Cheers.*]

MR. MUNDELLA thought it was evident that the schools in Heywood which had been referred to were structurally unsuitable for the accommodation of the children, and in places where there was not suitable school accommodation it was the duty of the Department to see that a School Board was set up. The Department had no option in the matter. Had the Vice President of the Council satisfied himself that there was ample and suitable school accommodation for the children of Heywood? It was a monstrous thing to force the children of poor parents into insanitary schools, where their lives were jeopardised. He was surprised that the desire of the people of Heywood for a School Board should be doubted, seeing that the Town Council had twice carried a resolution in favour of the establishment of a School Board, the first time by a majority of 16 to 2, and the second time by 14 to 8. If such a resolution were passed by a majority of one only, the Department would still be bound to recognise it. The Committee ought to be satisfied that the children of Heywood were being taught in good, suitable, sanitary schools, and if it could not be shown that the schools were of that character, he hoped his hon. Friend would not allow the question to rest where it was, and that, as a result of his efforts, there would be a complete and thorough inquiry. It was of the utmost importance that schools should be in a sanitary condition, for the sake, not only of the children, but also of the teachers. He knew of a case in which teachers had been seriously ill from fever, and it was found that an open drain passed in front of the door of the school where they taught.

SIR J. GORST said that he had explained recently that immediately the allegation was made that the schools in Heywood were in an insanitary condition the Education Department sent down a divisional inspector to report upon the matter. He reported that the condition of St. John's (Church of England) School was unsatisfactory, that two other schools required new offices, and that in a fourth school the offices were badly kept. The sanitary condition of the schools was at once taken into consideration, and the most urgent notice was given to the managers that the existing state of things could not be allowed to continue. As a result, the new offices which were required were being proceeded with as rapidly as possible, and the other needs were being supplied.

MR. MUNDELLA asked whether the right hon. Gentleman would instruct the inspector for the district to go to Heywood and to report upon the schools, and whether the right hon. Gentleman would lay the report upon the Table of the House?

SIR J. GORST explained that the inspector's last report was laid upon the Table, and the managers were now engaged in remedying the defects to which the inspector had called attention. As soon as the defects were reported as having been made good, he would gladly lay the report upon the Table.

COLONEL MELLOR (Lancashire, Radcliffe) asserted that the inspector's accounts of the condition of the Heywood schools did not justify the description of them which had been given by the hon. Member opposite.

MR. CARVELL WILLIAMS said that he had quoted from the reports of the inspector. He had given the inspector's statements as they appeared.

COLONEL MELLOR observed that the hon. Member had also given the Committee his own special report on the sanitary condition of these schools. He knew himself all about these schools; and what was amiss with them had been, or was being, remedied. He was of opinion that the Vote of the Town Council of Heywood on the subject of a School Board did not represent the views of the ratepayers. There was already abundant school accommodation in Heywood, and, that being the case, the people naturally objected to being saddled with School Board rates. All this factitious agitation in Heywood was due to half-a-dozen people, who were determined if possible to prevent the children of Nonconformists from attending Church of England Schools. For more than 30 years the Nonconformist children had attended the Church of England Schools, and no difficulties had arisen. Perfect harmony had prevailed until this spurious agitation was initiated. The agitation, however, would, in his opinion, die away as quickly as it had sprung up. With regard to half-timers, he wished to point out that Her Majesty's inspector said that the difference in attainments between half-timers and full-timers was very small indeed. The objection to the half-time system would disappear if sufficient evening continuation schools were established, and if attendance were made compulsory. In the textile trade the children suffered neither mentally nor physically under the half-time system, and if they were prevented from learning the rudiments of their business until they were 14 years of age, they would find the work more difficult to master.

Mr. ERNEST GRAY (West Ham, N.) said that one of the most important questions raised that afternoon was in the brief speech made by the Vice President of the Council, when he put his finger on one of the most regrettable incidents connected with our educational system. He believed that his right hon. Friend the Member for the London University was not altogether accurate in saying that the Committee had no material before it in order to discuss these Estimates. He had before him a return published by the Education Department this year in which the whole of the figures were incorporated, and which subsequently formed the Report of the Education Department. He was anxious to press on the Committee the enormous waste of public money which was annually incurred through the gross irregularity of attendance in our schools. Last year, according to this return, there were on the registers of schools 5,433,000 children, but in actual average attendance there were only 4,447,000—that was, for every half-day of the whole school year, 1,000,000 children were away from the places provided for them in the schools. The slightest acquaintance with our school work would convince any one that there were places, teachers, equipment, buildings maintained and educational machinery in operation for four-fifths of the children who ought to be in the schools. He admitted that they could not have cent. per cent. of attendance in the schools, but he contended that the Department might secure a better result than 81·6 per cent. He had worked the figures out, and he found them to be 81·6 per cent. this year. The proportion was the same 12 months ago, so that in this respect they had remained absolutely stationary; there was a greater number of children on the registers, but the proportion of children absent remained practically the same. He urged on the Vice President the desirableness of estimating the average attendance in rural schools, not on the actual number of days the schools were open, but, say, on the minimum number of attendances during the year. In rural districts, where children had to travel two or three miles in a storm sometimes, about 95 per cent. of the children were unable to reach the school doors, and thus the school suffered a material loss at the close of the year through the grants being reduced. It was also a regrettable fact that a large number of families persistently evaded our educational machinery. No sooner were they caught by the attendance authorities in one district, and the law was set in motion and its final result in that district secured, than the family migrated across the street and the entire operation of evasion began again. He agreed with the statement of the Vice President that some small School Boards could not be reformed, but that they must be swept away entirely. Where School Boards were in this condition, the result was largely due to the regrettable state of public opinion on which they relied. The parents and the School Attendance Committees were practically defeating the Act of Parliament which they were expected to see carried out. But this was not a question entirely waiting for legislation. He believed that the Department might do much more if the inspectors carried out more fully the instructions they had received to pay attention to the attendance in our schools. The reform in our system of inspection would set them free to give greater attention to this pressing question. He pressed on the attention of the

Vice President this important feature of our school work—that there was a waste of time and money through the irregularity of attendance, much of which might be prevented. But apart from the irregularity extending through the whole of the standards, he directed attention to the falling off in the upper standards of our elementary schools. From the age of six to 12 the attendance in each class remained roughly the same. In last year's return of children between the age of six and seven there were 600,000; between seven and eight, 597,000; between eight and nine, 603,000; between 9 and 10, 609,000; between 10 and 11, 600,000, resulting in a drop the following year to 476,000, while the drop in attendance of children at 13 years of age came to 205,000. What, then, was the good of asking that additional class subjects should be taken up, like history, music, and elementary science, when nearly half the children were lost when 11 years of age? Indeed, the children in our elementary schools were learning that vocabulary at the age when in better class homes children were familiar with it at the age of four and five years. He was as anxious as anyone to see the curriculum of our elementary schools made as wide as possible, and he thought that there was room for reform in this direction; but until the children were kept in our primary schools for two or three years beyond the age of 11, it would be utterly impossible for the country to accomplish what so many educationalists desired. As to half-timers, he said that he had heard some strange statements made during the course of these Debates, but he had heard nothing more surprising that the statement of the noble Lord the Member for Rochester that those children accomplished in one-half the time as much as the other children accomplished in the whole time. That argument would lead them to cut the system down by another half.

VISCOUNT CRANBORNE: It is a question of fact, not of argument.

MR. ERNEST GRAY maintained that it was not a question of fact, and said that what had been accomplished was accomplished with a maximum of drudgery to the child. He mentioned the experience of children in the north of England who were physically overstrained to the extent of fainting by the present system, and stated that while adults demanded an eight hours' day, the children had to work in a mill for six hours, and then had to attend for three hours at school in the afternoon. Although admirable results had sometimes been secured from half-time children, it had only been done by the exercise of a considerable amount of over-pressure on the child and drudgery on the part of the teacher. The fact that our continuation schools were so poorly attended was due to the fact that in earlier years the existing system did not sufficiently attract the children to school and caused them to look with repulsion on every item of educational effort. He longed for the period when the pledges given at the Berlin Conference might be redeemed. A system was retained in this country which was abolished elsewhere, and he believed that the time was coming when there would not be an industrial constituency in the country in which a Parliamentary candidate would dare to support the half-time system, because the working classes were coming round to the view that this system was injuring their children. [*Cheers.*] No good would be accomplished until they had the children at school regularly day by day—when they were registering with the children present, but when it would be a much easier task to register the children who were absent as they did in Germany—when the public and this House realised that nothing could be more profitably spent than that spent on the education of the children. The State had taken care, at all events during late years, to see that efficient teachers were engaged, but the State had been sadly negligent in its duty in seeing that the teachers retained in the school were efficient. How could men at the age of 80, or even 70, retain the vitality and elasticity necessary to adapt the adult mind to the requirements of little children? How could the money that the Committee was going to vote be spent wisely and judiciously when some part of it must be applied to salaries of men and women who were years past teaching work; and who, in some cases, were kept in their positions out of pure charity on the part of managers of schools? Nothing would more conduce to the efficient working of our educational machinery than the establishment at an early day of a complete scheme whereby aged and inefficient teachers might be removed, and younger and more able men and women able to take their place. He sincerely hoped that next Session might not pass without the carrying into legislative effect of a complete scheme for the retirement of aged teachers. A petition had just been presented praying that Article 73 of the Code might be again suspended. To that appeal he hoped the Government would turn a deaf ear. It was quite true that last year the Department did suspend the operation of that article, but this year the position was essentially different by reason of the passing of the Education Act of this Session. The fact that that Act would be in operation in a few weeks should be sufficient argument to induce the Government to stand firm by the article in question, thereby enabling men and women to do their work effectively, and putting the primary schools in a position something approaching the secondary schools, making the classes of the poor something similar in size to the classes of those who paid for their tuition. In his opinion the great reform which had been alluded to in the Debate could not be satisfactorily accomplished until our dual system was entirely removed, and the State took over the direct charge of national education.

*SIR FRANCIS POWELL (Wigan) said that in his constituency the system of half-timers was almost extinct. In Bradford, owing to the peculiar circumstances of industry there, a considerable number of children were employed as half-timers. In the school of which he was a manager they had half-timers; and he wished to make this frank confession, that he never saw a half-timer at any school of which he was a manager without a pang. The continuance of the half-time system was not desired by employers generally, but by the parents; and it was absolutely necessary in this, as in other matters of educational progress, to carry the parents with them. With reference to remarks made as to the comparative progress of the half-time child and the child attending full time, this fact had to be borne in mind, that the half-time child necessarily attended regularly, while the full timer did not attend with corresponding regularity. He believed he was the only Member present who served on the Superannuation Committee, and he never sat on a Committee which showed greater unanimity or a more earnest desire to see that their recommendations should be carried into effect. He hoped the Government, to whichever side it might belong, would not loiter in this matter. They had lately advanced the age at which children might enter upon factory labour, but as the result of that reform, which he welcomed, they had this state of things, that they had the child ready for labour as regards the standard, but not ready as regards the statute. The consequence was, that between the time of passing the standard and the day when full age was reached, the child was unemployed, and wandering about the streets acquiring habits which were not easily or soon eradicated. He thought the Committee had some right to complain that not only the Report of the Committee of Council should not be delivered when they were entering upon this discussion, but that the report on a most important branch of the subject—namely, the Training Colleges—should be placed in their hands only an hour or two before the commencement of the Debate. He congratulated the country on the improvement which the Report showed to be going on in the Training Colleges. There was a deficiency in accommodation for women at present which, he hoped, would soon be remedied, as, until it was, education must suffer. He was glad to notice improvements in the buildings, in provision for games, and in the use of recreation rooms. There was a remarkable passage in the Report referring to the importance of improving the social element in the training colleges. He fully agreed that one of the most important reforms which could be effected in our system of elementary education was to have a mixing of classes in the colleges. The association with ladies and gentlemen coming from refined homes would be of the greatest benefit to the teachers individually and to their profession. He was very glad to notice that the day colleges were so well spoken of. At the Manchester College a hostel had been established for the benefit of the women students, who were thus provided with a resort for their leisure hours; and of the Leeds College, it was so that the teachers there received an excellent training both in the theory and practice of education. His fear had been that in the effort to give a wide and general education to students, sufficient attention would not be paid to the art of teaching.

MR. REGINALD McKENNA (Monmouth, N.) said that in February last year, he asked the First Lord of the Treasury whether the Government intended to introduce a Measure during the Session dealing with the superannuation of teachers. The reply was that the Government had hopes of being able to do so. On February 21 of last year the Vice President of the Council said that he earnestly hoped that many weeks would not elapse before he was able to introduce a Bill providing for a superannuation scheme, "which the House desires to pass, and everyone else desires to have passed." Those declarations might not amount to a pledge, but they entitled the Committee to some explanation of the fact that 16 months had passed without anything being done.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS: That question cannot be raised now. It is not relevant to the Vote.

MR. McKENNA said that he would content himself with recalling to the Government that the House had unanimously passed a Resolution in favour of teachers' superannuation and that nothing had been done to carry out that Resolution.

MR. EVELYN HUBBARD (Lambeth, Brixton) called attention to the practical failure of the Conscience Clause to do justice to Church of England children under certain conditions of School Board management. He hoped that in this matter he would have the sympathies of hon. Gentlemen opposite, who had always posed as the champions of religious liberty. Under the Orpington Board there were two schools. Three years ago the Vicar, finding the religious education given in the schools to be unsatisfactory, tried to improve it by offering prizes. The Board accepted the offer, but allowed the matter to drop. The question was raised at the next election, and the Vicar was returned at the head of the poll in order that something might be done to meet the deficiency. In the autumn of that year, as the accommodation was found to be insufficient, the Vicar offered to provide Church schools for the required purpose. But this offer was declined, and nothing was done. Last year a test case was brought forward, and two chidren were withdrawn from the schools in the hours of religious instruction. The parents alleged as a reasonable excuse, that the children received adequate religious instruction elsewhere, namely, at the hands of the Vicar. It was demanded that the children so withdrawn should not be subjected to any disparaging treatment, and to this demand the Board assented. The Vicar then sent a circular to 100 parents saying that he was ready to give Church of England children religious instruction. The offer was accepted by 96 children. Then a request was made to the Board to alter the time of religious instruction in the schools, so as to enable the Vicar to get his class together, and the children to get back to school. This request the Board refused, on the ground that they could not give any assistance to "sectarian teaching." The Board even went further, and said that they proposed to diminish the time allotted to religious instruction. The Vicar then asked the Board to lease him one of the class-rooms for the purpose of giving his religious instruction. This request the Board also refused, and at that point the matter now stood. Under such circumstances the Conscience Clause became a dead letter. The existing law made the School Board not only the arbiters, but also the monopolists, of religious instruction. It enabled the Board to say to the Church of England parents that if they were dissatisfied with the religious instruction given in the Board Schools, the Board would prevent their children from having any other. It seemed to him that this was rather a mockery of the Conscience Clause. He was sure it was a result that could never be intended; he did not suppose it was ever foreseen. All he asked was that the Vice President and the Government would take this matter into consideration. It appeared to him that here was a real grievance calling for amendment. It was not for him to indicate the way in which this Amendment was to be made; but what he thought was wanted was that there should be introduced, in a future Code, if possible, some provision either that a School Board, if required by a reasonable number of parents, should be obliged to lease one of the class-rooms for the use of Church teachers or the teachers of any other denomination who might wish to join in giving instruction, or that they should allow religious instruction, given by adequate and proper teachers elsewhere, to count as equivalent to the instruction given in the school, and that the children so withdrawn should not in any way be placed at a disadvantage or subject to any disparaging treatment as compared with the other children. He ventured to put it to the Vice President that if he could see his way to making it more easy for the country clergymen to do what they believed to be their duty towards Church children, he would have gone a long way towards solving the religious difficulty in the rural districts. The whole objection to Board schools was felt in many places by Churchmen because they could not get the religious teaching for the children they wanted. If they allowed them to get that religious teaching through the agency of the pastor of the parish then they would have no hesitation in supporting the Board Schools, and the Vice President would have gone a long way to solving the religious difficulty.

*MR. ROBERT PURVIS (Peterborough) said it seemed they were all agreed that a great part of this £7,000,000 was likely to be wasted. Some hon. Members said this was due to the religious difficulty; others that there were too few subjects taught to these elementary school children, and it had been suggested that foreign languages and elementary natural science should be added to the subjects taught. He wished to refer the Committee to the fact that education was to be put in possession of one's own faculties, not of the information of other people, and it was only to be done by teaching subjects well, and in order to teach these poor little children subjects well there must be few subjects taught. If this huge sum were not to be wasted, and further grants of huge sums were not to be wasted in the future, he believed the principle must be few subjects better taught.

MAJOR RASCH (Essex, S.E.) said he had put down a Motion for the reduction of the Vice President's salary in order to call attention to the very great hardship inflicted on Board Schools by the withholding of the arrears due to them under the 95th Section of the Act of 1871. Personally he spoke for rather a hard case—that of Grays, in South East Essex, a manufacturing town with a poor population of about 15,000, with rather an abnormally large proportion of children; where the rates were very heavy, where the arrears at present amounted to something like £1,200, and where they were very much wanted. They approached the Education Department some time ago upon the subject, and the answer they received was that under the Circular of 1881 they were barred from making any applications with reference to these arrears. After that the hon. Member for North East Northamptonshire questioned the Vice President on the subject, and the answer the right hon. Gentleman gave was that the claims of these School Boards would receive fair consideration, and that it was quite possible a Supplementary Vote would have to be taken on the subject. After that the Education Department handed the matter over to the Law Officers of the Crown, who gave it as their opinion that the claims were inadmissible. They entirely failed to understand that decision, and their opinion was, as he thought the views of the Vice President himself must be, that the claims were legally admissible, were thoroughly sound, and certainly ought to be paid. He regarded the way in which his constituents had been treated in this way as extremely hard and shabby, and he moved the reduction standing in his name, namely £100.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS: I am afraid I cannot put that, because there is already a Motion for reduction before the Committee.

MR. J. CALDWELL (Lanark, Mid) referred to the fact that in Scotland no more than two class subjects were paid for. The reason for the change which had been made was that it was thought better that two class subjects should be well taught than that three class subjects should be taught in a perfunctory manner. The hon. Baronet the Member for Wigan had pointed out what he believed to be the great weakness of the

English system. That was in regard to the training colleges, and to their not having sufficient trained teachers. Their teaching staff consisted of 112,000 teachers. Of these 53,000 were certificated; 28,000 were assistant teachers, and 31,000 were pupil teachers. Roughly speaking they had 50 per cent. of certificated teachers who were divided into the two classes of trained and untrained teachers. By trained teachers they meant technically, one who had two years' training at a training college, and an untrained teacher was one who had not received that training. That trained teachers had very great advantages over untrained teachers in educational work all authorities agreed. Each class had to pass the Queen's College examinations, but only the first 2,200 who passed were admitted to training colleges, simply because there was only accommodation for that number, although England required 5,000 teachers annually. Of the whole number only 2,200 were sent to training colleges, though presumably those who did not pass in the first 2,200 were those who most required the training. In the Report of the Education Department for last year it was asserted that of those who were not sent to training colleges a considerable proportion could only be considered untrained in a technical sense, they having been assistants under the best masters, and no doubt that would be the effect of the answers of the Vice President. No statistics, however, were forthcoming, and in the nature of things it would be those who had been assistants under the best masters who would come out best in the examinations, and it might be doubted if any very considerable number of the remainder were as highly qualified as was stated. There was a very reliable test as to the difference in intellectual ability between trained and untrained teachers. Both classes had to pass the same examination for certificates, and statistics just issued showed the results of these examinations last year. Taking the second year's examinations, of the trained male teachers, 62 per cent. passed in the first or highest division, 36 per cent. in the second division, 1 per cent. in the third, and 1 per cent. failed. Of the untrained teachers in the same examination, 10 per cent. passed in the first division, 42 per cent. in the second, 47 per cent. in the third, and 1 per cent. failed. Then, of the female teachers—and they were more than 50 per cent. of the teachers in English schools—among those who had been through the training colleges, 54 per cent. passed in the first division, 40 per cent. in the second, 5 per cent. in the third, and 1 per cent. failed. Of the untrained female teachers at the same examination, 2 per cent. passed in the first division, 18 per cent. in the second, 62 per cent. in the third, and 18 per cent. failed. Nothing could more clearly show the difference in qualification between trained and untrained teachers. Year after year inspectors in their reports had drawn attention to this subject, and still this blot remained on our educational system, and recently the proportion of untrained to trained teachers had been increased. He was not surprised at remarks upon superannuation, and as the numbers of untrained teachers were growing so in large numbers, in the next ten or twenty years they would have to be superseded by a new supply. Every year 5,000 additional teachers were required and added to the certificated list, but the training colleges could only produce 2,200. In the main these colleges were denominational, but there should be a training college under State supervision for the supply of trained teachers for the Board Schools, where more than half the population were educated. If you require 5,000 teachers and only qualify 2,200, necessarily you "bear" the market and salaries will go up. Necessarily the salaries of trained teachers would increase, because the required number were not produced. A serious result of this was that trained teachers went to Board Schools and to large centres of population, the refuse went to country schools, and year by year the teaching in country schools became more inefficient. English education would not improve until there was a full supply of trained teachers, and the expenditure upon training colleges more than doubled. They might spend their seven millions as they liked, but depend upon it, they would never produce good results until they went to the root of the matter and had every teacher trained who was qualified to pass the examination. Instead of there being 2,200 students in the training colleges, there ought to be at least 5,000. They had an increased school attendance every year, but no allowance whatever was made for this increase in the provision for training teachers. He ventured to say that until they remedied this state of things, and until they had training colleges sufficient to train every teacher who ought to be in charge of a school, they would never produce any good educational result whatever.

SIR J. GORST remarked that several questions had been imported into the discussion which he would no doubt be expected to answer. He was afraid he should not be in order if he said anything on the question of teachers' pensions, except to assure the Committee that the views which had been expressed would be communicated by him to the Lord President of the Council, and he had no doubt that when the programme of legislation for next Session was being prepared those views would be taken into careful consideration. With regard to the remarks of the hon. Member for Nottingham about the Jubilee holiday, the policy of the Education Department was to leave the matter in the hands of the managers of schools. He had no doubt whatever that the managers would do what they thought right with regard to the wishes which had been communicated from an august quarter. The Department would give every facility to enable managers, if they thought fit, to give the suggested holidays. Unless they had already given an inordinate amount of holiday, there was no reason whatever why managers could not give a holiday to celebrate Her Majesty's Jubilee; and if under special circumstances it happened that the giving of this holiday brought the attendance down to below the required yearly standard the Department would no doubt use the power of dispensation it possessed to meet any case of the kind. ["Hear, hear!"] He felt strongly the importance of the remarks made by the right hon. Baronet the Member for the University of London as to the various subjects which a well-educated boy and girl ought to know. But he must confess that, until Parliament, or rather the people of this country, were persuaded to devote a longer period to the education of their children, it would be impossible to increase the number of subjects taught in elementary schools. He believed that, if anything, they had erred on the side of doing too much. ["Hear, hear!"] He quite agreed that these things ought to be taught; but it seemed to him that a preliminary step was to give the teachers longer time in which to teach them. ["Hear, hear!"] A good deal had been said about the lateness of the Report. He had made inquiries, and he found that this year the Report was two months earlier than usual. It was issued in July, whereas generally it was not ready until August or September. The Committee had ample materials for the discussion of the Estimate before it in the statistics contained in the papers referred to by the hon. Member for West Ham, which had been some time in the hands of Members, and which gave all the figures and other particulars necessary for the discussion of this subject. A special effort had been made to get these Papers laid before the House as soon as possible; and certainly in the present year they were earlier, not later, than in former years. Two hon. Members representing Welsh constituencies made a sort of faint but patriotic protest against the appointment made some time ago of a chief inspector for Wales, who had the great deficiency of being unable to speak the Welsh language. They themselves admitted that the gentleman appointed was a most excellent inspector. He was sure that the Welsh people had derived very great advantage from his services to education in Wales, and he thought from the way in which hon. Members spoke they had already found what an extremely valuable man he was. There could be no doubt that he was far superior to any of the inspectors who could speak Welsh. If his noble Friend the President of the Council had gone down the list and taken an inspector who could speak Welsh, he would have had to pass him over the heads of a very great number of men senior to him and quite competent for the office of chief inspector. The district assigned to this chief inspector was a part of Wales where the people, if they spoke Welsh, also thoroughly understood the English language, and where a knowledge of Welsh was not so important to an inspector. He was informed that, as regarded the duty of chief inspector, a knowledge of the Welsh language was not absolutely essential. No doubt it was desirable, and he had no doubt that in making an appointment his noble Friend would take note of a knowledge of Welsh as a very valuable adjunct to other qualifications. But he understood it was not absolutely essential. He was quite sure that there was no intention whatever of undervaluing the great importance of an acquaintance with Welsh; but, as he had said, there was no gentleman possessing that qualification at all near on the list, and it was thought better, on the whole, to take the person appointed rather than go down low in the list for the purpose of taking sóme one who did possess it. The hon. Member for Carmarthen gave the Committee excellent advice about pupil teachers. He thoroughly agreed with almost every word he said. At present there was a Departmental Committee sitting on the subject of the education of pupil teachers, and it would be inappropriate if he said anything as to the opinions of the Committee of Council until that Committee had reported. In Wales, it was fair to say, they had the advantage of a public system of secondary education, in which teachers might be trained; but in England, unfortunately, we had nothing of the kind at present. It was, no doubt, most desirable that teachers should spend the younger years of their lives rather in acquiring knowledge than in acting as school drudges. He did not think we should ever get a satisfactory body of teachers in this country until we had some plan by which young persons who adopted the profession of teacher were sent at the public expense to secondary schools during the early years of their training. ["Hear, hear!"] His noble Friend the Member for Oxford was anxious that Article 73 of the Code be postponed. This article, which prescribed a not very severe rate of staffing in all schools, was put into the Code some years ago before the present Government came into office. Last year, when the Bill for the relief of Voluntary Schools failed to pass, its operation was postponed. But there was now no occasion for postponing it any further—["hear, hear!"]—because, although the special aid grant for the present year was not yet distributed, and some months might elapse before it was distributed, yet it was payable as from April 1, and therefore it was a payment to be looked forward to, and it would cover the whole period from April 1 up to the time of the distribution of the grant. He quite admitted the grievance as to Voluntary Schools in parishes where there were School Boards. There were many cases all over the country of parishes amply supplied with Voluntary Schools which, nevertheless, had to pay full rates to the School Board districts in which they were incorporated for which they got no return. That was a very large question which could not be dealt with except by legislation. At any rate, it was not a matter which the Department could alter, and he thought it was really the function of the Local Government Board to move for a remedy of the grievance. He fully recognised the grievance which had been brought before the Committee by another hon. Member, who had given a concrete instance of what he himself had expressed in general terms earlier in the evening, namely, that the existing Conscience Clause was not a perfect system of toleration. Under the present law it was in the power of school managers, whether Voluntary or School Board, to exercise a certain amount of tyranny over those who did not agree with their religious opinions. Very happily this power was scarcely ever exercised. He believed that both School Board and Voluntary managers were generally animated by a spirit of toleration, by a willingness to allow any reasonable arrangement to be made by which children could receive the particular religious instruction their parents desired. But, no doubt, as the law stood there was a power of intolerance, and it was a power that had been exercised by the officer of the School Board to which the hon. Member's remarks referred. The hon. Member asked that that should be remedied by the Code. They could not remedy it by the Code. It could only be remedied by legislation, and he did not know whether the House had become sufficiently educated in tolerance to entertain another attempt to remedy it by legislation. In the last Session of Parliament Members generally were rather in favour of leaving things as they were. He was fully conscious of the imperfections of the system of toleration under which they now lived, but he was afraid they could never hope to adopt a really tolerant system until the House itself was better educated, and until public opinion had learned to treat with a little tenderness the feeling of the minority, so that parents might have their children taught in the religion which they themselves professed. The hon. and gallant Member for Essex had complained of the shabbiness of the Education Department in regard to the arrears under the 97th section of the Education Act. That shabbiness was imposed upon the Education Department by the Law Officers of the Crown. The Education Department was not allowed to be liberal and generous. It had to expend its money under the authority of the law, and could not make payments unless those payments were legally due. The opinion of the Law Officers had been taken, and everything that could be legally paid to School Boards in the shape of arrears had been paid or was being paid. Beyond that it was impossible to go.

*Mr. W. WOODALL (Hanley) observed that it would have been satisfactory to the Committee if they could have had some assurance from the Vice President that it was the intention of the Government to persist in that part of the policy contained in the ill-fated Bill of last year which related to the raising of the age of exemption from school attendance, and which received the unanimous assent of all sides of the House. He urged the importance of making the elementary schools thoroughly efficient, for unless they did so it was utterly hopeless to expect to have any adequate system of secondary or technical instruction. Germany, which offered them many lessons in this respect, had, throughout the Empire, made 14 years the minimum age of attendance at primary schools. As the hon. Member for Sheffield had pointed out, the school attendance did not cease even at the accomplishment of the fourteenth year, for there were continuation schools, evening schools, and Sunday schools, at which attendance in most of the States was obligatory, and where this course of primary instruction was carried on up to 17 years of age. He agreed with much that had fallen from the hon. Member for Peterborough. What they did teach in their schools they ought certainly to take care to teach efficiently. But that was no reason why they should content themselves with being behind every other civilised country in the world, and teaching less than the subjects with which other countries fortified their people to come into sharp and successful competition with themselves. If they could increase the age at which school attendance was necessary, a very great step would have been accomplished. Again, the staffs in their schools were very insufficient, and the qualification for the teachers far below what was requisite for the successful prosecution of the work in which they were engaged. It was appalling to hear the Member for Nottingham telling them that 100, or more than 100 children in some cases, were confided to the care of one teacher, who might or might not be certificated, or might not be thoroughly trained. How could they hope for good results from a system which permitted of such things? They were spending millions of money, but they were doing their work in such an inefficient and unsatisfactory manner that a great part of it was lost when the children were liberated from the necessity of school attendance. If they could hope to have some assurance from the right hon. Gentleman that the Government would avail themselves of some opportunity to give effect to that which they had acknowledged to be their policy, and endeavour to secure the assent of Parliament to an extension of the school age, then he thought they would have earned the gratitude of men of all political parties in that House. They must not, however, stop there, but must proceed to promote the efficiency of education by making the staffs larger and the qualification for the teachers more adequate to the requirements of the age. It had been stated by the Vice President in the course of the Debate that the pupil teachers in some cases were mere school drudges, and how could they hope, when they employed pupil teachers as cheap labourers, to make proper teachers out of them, or that the children under their care could be properly educated? He trusted that much also might be done by the Government to continue the policy which the Department had committed themselves to for some time in improving the sanitary conditions of the schools, and providing a larger area per child, so that when they came to discuss the Estimates, year by year, they might be able to congratulate themselves not merely upon the larger number of children for whom grants were paid, but upon a great improvement in the average attendance which would be brought about, in his opinion, by making the schools more attractive and working upon the public opinion of the parents themselves.

Mr. CARVELL WILLIAMS asked leave to withdraw his Amendment, as he was convinced that the discussion that had taken place with regard to the Heywood schools would be productive of good results.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. HARRY FOSTER (Suffolk, Lowestoft) said he rose to draw attention to the interpretation put by the Education Department upon the 98th Section of the Education Act of 1870. That section provided that if the managers of any school which was situated in a School Board district, and which school was not receiving a Parliamentary grant, desired a Parliamentary grant, the Education Department might, if they thought that such school was unnecessary, refuse such application. In practice the Department invariably sent the request of the school seeking the grant to the School Board authority in the area, and if they thought fit to sanction the school, the Education Department sanctioned the school. If, on the other hand, the School Board authority said the school was not necessary the Department refused the grant. That state of things had resulted in gross injustice being done. He was sure his right hon. Friend the Vice President was personally opposed to any unfair treatment being meted out to individual schools or classes of schools, and he merely rose to call the right hon. Gentleman's attention to the operation of the section. In the last Parliament he put a question on the subject to his right hon. Friend's predecessor, and the answer given by the then Vice President was that he had simply acted in the same way as his predecessors, and he did not propose to make any alteration. There could be no doubt that the intention was that the Department itself should determine whether a school was necessary or not. In the case of Roman Catholic Schools, for instance, the present state of things worked very unfairly. The Roman Catholics in the Division he represented required proper accommodation for their children, they erected a school in a School Board area, and having erected the school they applied to the Department for a Parliamentary grant, the education given being, of course, efficient. The answer given by the right hon. Gentleman's predecessor was that there were already a sufficient number of school places in the district; and, therefore, there was no statistical necessity for further school accommodation. The Department maintained that they had nothing to do with the religious question, and they refused to make a grant. That was a very great hardship to the Roman Catholics of his constituency. He trusted that if any cases of this kind came before the Vice President the right hon. Gentleman would not relegate to any School Board authority the discretion whether a grant should be made or not, but would exercise the discretion which it was clear Parliament intended the Department itself to exercise.

Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE (Carnarvon Boroughs) said a good deal had been said as to the tenderness which ought to be shown towards minorities in School Board districts in respect to their religious susceptibilities. He wished it were possible for the Education Department to show greater regard for the susceptibilities of majorities in Wales. He agreed with what had been said as to the undesirableness of leaving education in rural districts to small School Boards, and he trusted that some time or other the Vice President of the Council would find an opportunity of embodying the proposals in the first part of his Bill of last year in a form which would commend itself to the majority of the Members of the House. He thought that the answers of the right hon. Gentleman were of a very trivial character. He regretted that he should choose to repudiate——

Sir J. GORST said he had repudiated nothing. He had said over and over again that he was not the head of the Education Department, that the head of it was the Lord President, and that he was prepared to defend the acts of the Lord President. They were not his acts.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said he was very glad to hear that statement, and he should therefore apply his observations to the Lord President of the Council. Still, the right hon. Gentleman represented the Lord President, and he challenged the action of the Lord President. The right hon. Gentleman had said that there was nothing incompatible in the appointment with the absolute necessity for the due performance of his duties that the chief inspector should have a knowledge of the Welsh language. That was a remarkable statement. They had a population of a million who spoke the Welsh language, and they had half a million who understood no other language at all. The English was a strange foreign language to the children attending the schools. How could the right hon. Gentleman expect the children to learn a foreign tongue when the inspector appointed to direct the education of the children of half-a-dozen counties did not understand the Welsh language? The right hon. Gentleman had committed himself to the utterly ridiculous proposition that language had nothing to do with the chief inspector. What would he say to the appointment of an inspector, say, in India or Mashonaland, who had no knowledge of the language? He must say he did not understand the defence of the right hon. Gentleman in regard to Mr. Legard. It was said the majority in the eastern districts spoke English, but Mr. Legard was not merely the inspector of those districts, he was the chief inspector of the whole Welsh district. His duty was not merely to examine the schools, but to superintend the whole of the schools in every district throughout Wales. Let them suppose the chief inspector going into any of the West districts, into Carnarvonshire or Cardiganshire. Surely he must visit those districts, or how could he properly report? One of the ideas was that Welsh should be utilised to learn English. Here were children who did not speak a word of English, and here was the chief inspector who did not speak a word of Welsh. How was he going to advise as to that district? Well now, he must say he did not think the right hon. Gentleman would defend the action of the Lord President in regard to that appointment. Was the question of 10 years' experience a more important qualification for the chief inspectorship of a district like Wales than a knowledge of Welsh? There were several, including Englishmen, who had a knowledge of Welsh, and were perfectly capable men. Why not appoint one of these? He begged formally to move the reduction of the Vote by £1,000.

SIR J. GORST had not much to add to what he had already said. He should be ill expressing the opinion of the President of the Council if he treated lightly the question of the Welsh language, but he did not like to take on himself a position which he had not got. England and Wales were under one system of elementary education, and they were constantly transferring inspectors from England to Wales, and from Wales to England. He concurred that in some parts of Wales a knowledge of Welsh was indispensable. ["Hear, hear!"] If an inspector were appointed, say, to the Island of Anglesey, without having a knowledge of Welsh, it would be a bad appointment. ["Hear, hear!"] But a chief inspector was not an examiner of schools, it was for him to superintend. He could conceive a case in which it might be desirable for the chief inspector himself to examine a school, and he admitted that he would not be able to examine a school in a Welsh-speaking district, but he would be able to call in a Welsh colleague to do it. Mr. Legard was perfectly capable of supervising the work of the inspectors, and could fulfil perfectly every function of chief inspector with the occasional rare necessity of calling in a Welsh-speaking colleague to examine a school in some Welsh-speaking district. Mr. Legard was a man of great distinction, and he thought it was a very happy thing for Wales that they had got such a man to look after the interests of their national education. Mr. Legard was also senior of those capable of being appointed to the chief inspectorship, and the question was—Was he to be passed over? A suitable Welsh-speaking man could not be found until 40 had been passed over. That was the whole story; but he was not surprised that Members for Welsh constituencies had raised the question, as it showed their patriotism and their appreciation of their national language.

MR. THOMAS ELLIS (Merionethshire) thought that the Vice President had been more unfortunate in his second speech than in his first. In his first speech the right hon. Gentleman minimised the complaint made by his two hon. Friends, while in the second he minimised the most difficult problem the Department had to deal with in respect to inspectors and schoolmasters in Wales. What was that problem? It was not a matter of sentiment or patriotism. It was a practical problem that had to be dealt with every morning and afternoon by hundreds of schoolmasters in Wales and by every inspector who tried to do his duty. Close upon 1,000,000 in their everyday conversation and in their religious exercises almost exclusively used the Welsh language. Half of them were exclusively Welsh speaking, and the other half, though they could speak English fairly well, much preferred their own language. The problem was how to apply a system meant for an exclusively English speaking people to a people one-third of whom were monoglots and two-thirds more Welsh than English. ["Hear, hear!"] The right hon. Gentleman had said that England and Wales were one in this matter, and that the inspectors were transferred from one to the other indiscriminately. That only betrayed the right hon. Gentleman's ignorance of the matter. On every page of the Schedule attached to the annual Code there was an alternative scheme for teaching Welsh in Welsh schools. The Department had gone to immense trouble to fit a Code meant for an English-speaking people to an entirely different set of circumstances in Wales. ["Hear, hear!"] They had had not merely to submit an alternative course in the Code, but they had had to appoint to the inspectorate and assistant inspectorate in Wales men conversant with the Welsh language. They knew that it was only in this way that they could hope to deal with the problem that confronted them in the elementary schools practically all over Wales. With the exception of the southern parts of Monmouthshire, Radnorshire, and the eastern parts of Brecknockshire, there was not a single county in Wales in which there was not a very large proportion of Welsh-speaking children.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bristol, W.): Pembrokeshire.

MR. THOMAS ELLIS admitted that in South Pembrokeshire there had hitherto existed a large infusion of English, but he would like the right hon. Gentleman to visit the schools in North Pembrokeshire and find out which was the prevalent language. With regard to Southern Pembrokeshire, so far from the English area increasing, it was actually decreasing, for the farmers from Northern Pembrokeshire were coming down into what used to be exclusively an English area. ["Hear, hear!"] In the Instructions issued by the Department to the inspectors, it was stated that in the case of Wales it was clear that the habit in many of the Welsh-speaking districts to use the Welsh language in the schools side by side with English would greatly facilitate the intelligent understanding of English. The Instructions went on to say that it was desirable that the attention of the teachers should be called to this, and that the inspectors should encourage the practice by themselves using the Welsh language in testing the children. ["Hear, hear!"] If that meant anything, it meant that the Education Department would send into Wales inspectors who knew Welsh well, and they had so far carried that out as to make most of their appointments in accordance with that view. It was, therefore, to be expected that the Department would take special care to appoint as chief inspector a man who would come up to that ideal. It was all very well for the right hon. Gentleman to make an apology for the appointment of

Mr. Legard by saying that he had been placed in an exclusively English-speaking district, but, as a matter of fact, there were no exclusively English-speaking districts in Wales. But, even if there were, was it not a mockery to put at the head of the inspectorate of Wales a gentleman who could not possibly carry out the Instructions issued by the Education Department itself? It was not right to send to Welsh schools an inspector who did not possess the key which would enable him to unlock the door of the children's understanding and intelligence. Under the watchful care of the late chief inspector excellent progress was made in the education of Welsh children. The appointment under consideration was, however, a ludicrous one. He had no doubt that the gentleman selected would be an admirable inspector in England, but he ought not to have been placed at the head of the inspectorate in Wales, where the predominant problem was the bilingual question.

MR. ELLIS GRIFFITH (Anglesey) thought that the answer of the Vice President was unsatisfactory. This was not a question of patriotism, but a question of education. The Vice President admitted that the teachers ought to know Welsh and the inspectors also, except in one or two districts. The irresistible conclusion from these admissions was that the chief inspector himself ought to know Welsh. According to the right hon. Gentleman, however, the chief inspector might be without the very qualifications which were required in those below him. The chief inspector's duties were twofold. In some respects his duties were those of an ordinary inspector, and his qualifications ought, therefore, to include a knowledge of Welsh, but his principal duty was to consider and determine whether the inspectors who worked under him were competent to do their work. If that was so, and if it was admitted that an ordinary inspector ought to know Welsh *a fortiori* the chief inspector ought also to have a knowledge of that language. But the gentleman who had been appointed had not that knowledge, and when he went to Anglesey to ascertain whether the inspector there was doing his work properly he would have to call in to assist him the very inspector whose work he was supposed to overlook. The Vice President had failed to justify this appointment, and it was a bad appointment. Having regard to the circumstances under which it was made it ought to be condemned not only by the Welsh Members but by the Committee generally.

MR. J. BRIGG (Yorkshire, W.R., Keighley) asked whether the Report issued in connection with the Science and Art Department, recommending that no further Science and Art schools should be opened excepting under the advice and counsel of the education authority of a district was to be embodied in the Code? Was this the first step towards drawing the line between elementary and secondary education—to which change they were all looking forward in the near future? He also wished to know the nature of the educational authority under whose advice Science and Art schools would be opened?

MR. CALDWELL said he wished to ask how it was that the right hon. Gentleman estimated that the increase in average attendance this year would be only 1 per cent.? The normal average increase had hitherto been 2 per cent., and the additional financial assistance given this year to schools ought surely to result in a further increase. He further wished to know whether the Department had any Report from the Director of Public Inquiry, and if not, when they expected it? There was a scarcity of male pupil teachers for the country schools. This was due to the fact that the male pupil teachers educated in the country had to compete with pupil teachers from the borough schools, where they had every opportunity to pass the examination by the establishment of central classes. The country teacher was unduly handicapped, he was becoming more and more untrained, and the supply of teachers was becoming exhausted.

SIR J. GORST pointed out, in reply to the hon. Member for Keighley, that his question related to the growth of the Science and Art Department, and that this subject would come on for discussion when the present Vote was disposed of. As to other criticisms, he stated that there had been no breach of continuity in the Estimates, and that the true increase in the average attendance this year would be about the same as the year before. It would be an excellent thing if drill could be made compulsory in all schools. Many School Boards at present had drill in their schools, but he was afraid that the country was not quite ripe for the introduction of drill as a compulsory subject in our schools. He agreed with the recommendation as to large districts for school administrative purposes, but the Education Department had no power to set up those districts in which isolated school areas could be federated. This reform must be brought about by legislation, and no improvement would ensue until the end had been achieved by means of legislation.

MR. JAMES STUART (Shoreditch, Hoxton) asked whether the Department were taking any steps to bring under their cognisance the children who were at present under the Poor Law Schools. What was the state of the matter at the present moment? There were an enormous number of children in the workhouses who were educated in those establishments or in some way under the care of the Guardians. Those children were not under the educational system of the country at all. Their teachers were not under the same system as those of the ordinary elementary schools. They were of an inferior order, necessarily so because their promotion was interfered with by a separate and small Department. The methods of examination, the subjects taught, were all different, and a great deal of difficulty was introduced into the elementary schools by this want of harmony, a large number of those children being only for a short time in the workhouse schools. They were transferred for one portion of the year from one system of education to the other, so that they were in a state of confusion in their whole educational training. There was great backwardness in the education of such children, arising from this cause. Yet these were children for whom education was perhaps even more vitally necessary than in the case of any others. All he was claiming was that those children should be brought under the same inspection as those of the ordinary elementary schools. Several Boards of Guardians had intimated their complete willingness that the money they got for those children should be made entirely dependent upon the grant, so that they would not endeavour in the slightest way to get a double grant for those children. He referred more particularly to the Board of Guardians for the parish which he had the honour to represent, who were desirous of being placed under the Department, so as to have the means of improving the education they give to the children. Upon the desirability of the question whether the education of those children should be under the control of the Education Department and correlated with the ordinary elementary education of the country, there would not be two opinions in the House or in the country, and he had never been able to understand how it came about, now that the Local Government Board had turned in favour of the change, that the Education Department saw a lion in the path. He appealed to the right hon. Gentleman whose zeal for the better training of pauper children they all recognised, not to allow his desire to make a large and complete scheme stand in the way of this little piece of obvious reform.

He asked the right hon. Gentleman whether he would do this—where Boards of Guardians, who were devoting themselves to the better education of the children under their care, came and requested that their children should be placed under the ordinary educational inspection of the country, would he grant that request? His question was a very definite one, and he hoped some slight elasticity might be manifested by the Department in this respect. What was the state of the matter at the present moment? The fault of our Education Department was that it was not conducted by people whose hearts were in education.

Sir J. GORST said that wherever guardians sent the Poor Law children to the ordinary elementary schools, and in ordinary clothes, not in uniform, the best results had been achieved. But the request made by the hon. Gentleman was very different. It was that where the guardians had massed Poor Law children into these large schools of 800 and 1,000 children, the Education Department should undertake, not the whole management of the children, but one very small part of it, the schooling. The schooling in these schools was very bad. About two years ago Sir J. Fitch went to every one of the Poor Law schools in London and examined them, and he reported that the education was miserably inefficient and far below that given in the ordinary schools of the country. The Education Department was asked to undertake the inspection of these large schools, but there would be no security that any of the inspector's recommendations would be carried out.

Mr. STUART: Make the grant dependent upon the results.

Sir J. GORST said that these schools had no grant. He could understand the boards of guardians wishing to get some part of the cost of the schools out of the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Mr. STUART said that the guardians were perfectly willing to substitute one grant for the other.

Mr. James Stuart.

Sir J. GORST said that they wanted to substitute the education grant for the rates. It was easily conceivable that the guardians wished to spare the rates by receiving a grant from the Chancellor of the Exchequer, but whether Parliament would consent to subsidise the rates in that way was questionable; and unless the grant were made dependent on the reports of the inspection, the schools could not be put in the same state of efficiency as the ordinary elementary schools. The only way to break up these large Poor Law schools was for the guardians to send the children to the ordinary schools, and in that effort he wished them God speed.

Mr. MUNDELLA quite agreed that wherever the Poor Law children had been sent to the ordinary schools the experiment had proved a blessing. But he would remind the right hon. Gentleman that the Committee reported almost unanimously in favour of the Education Department undertaking the inspection of the Poor Law schools. That would be an excellent service to the Poor Law children. The teachers in the Poor Law schools were not certificated. If both teachers and children were brought under the Education Department, the reports of the inspectors would expose to the country what was discreditable. He agreed that the large Poor Law schools ought to be broken up.

*Mr. WOODALL was understood to ask the Vice President whether, in reference to compulsory drill, he had overlooked the fact that Swedish or other drill was a condition of the higher grant for discipline and organisation, and whether experience had been so unsatisfactory that he was disposed to qualify it, or whether he might not take it that the opinion of the Education Department was strongly in favour of the encouragement of some of those systems of which the Swedish was a conspicuous type?

Sir J. GORST: That is what I said.

*Mr. WOODALL also desired to know how far the Vice President accepted the conclusion of the Rev. T. W. Sharpe that the time allowed for the instruction of the children in the schools for the blind and deaf was insufficient for their thorough training, and whether they might hope that the grant would be extended for instruction carried on for a longer period than that defined in the Act. He should also like to know how far the right hon. Gentleman was satisfied with the teachers for these afflicted children?

SIR J. GORST said a deputation was received by the Lord President on this subject a short time ago, and it was then pointed out that it was impossible to carry out the wishes of the deputation without legislation. How soon or how far the Government might be able to undertake legislation he could not say. The supply of teachers was very far short of the demand. He had no doubt they would improve in this respect, as he hoped they would improve in others, and that the class of teachers would be more adequate to the necessities of the case.

*MR. WOODALL asked if the right hon. Gentleman was of opinion that progress of a satisfactory kind was being made in this respect?

SIR J. GORST replied in the affirmative.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said that, in consequence of the unsatisfactory character of the reply of the Vice President on the subject of the appointment of Mr. Legard, he must press the reduction of the Vote he had moved to a Division.

Question put, "That a sum, not exceeding £4,305,910, be granted for the said service.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 37; Noes, 114.—(Division List, No. 238.)

LORD HUGH CECIL (Greenwich) said the Vice President earlier in the evening expressed himself in condemnation of the intolerant manner in which the Orpington School Board had acted in violation of the spirit of the Conscience Clause, but he said the Department had no power to compel compliance with the spirit of the clause. He would suggest that the Committee had a very efficient means of dealing with the matter. Suppose the Committee reduced the Vote by £100, which was about the amount to which the Orpington School would be entitled in respect to the scholars whose religious views had been invaded, the effect would be that the Orpington School would be fined £100 for intolerant conduct, and School Boards in the future would be deterred from this invasion of the Conscience Clause, and parents would be able to exact full regard to their religious principles. He formally moved the reduction of the Vote by £99, not with the intention of pressing the Motion, but to elicit a further statement from the Vice President upon this suggestion.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY said he was glad his hon. Friend did not propose to Divide, because the effect of such a reduction would not be to punish the Orpington Board by mulcting them in the sum of £99, but to reduce by that amount the sum distributed over the whole of the Board and Voluntary Schools in the country. The reduction could not be confined to any particular case, and would not have the effect his hon. Friend desired of imposing a penalty for the misdeeds of a particular Board. It would be out of the power of the Department so to allocate the grant as to carry out his hon. Friend's wishes.

LORD HUGH CECIL said it would be absurd under such circumstances to press the Motion, but he hoped the Vice President would use such influence as he possessed in favour of securing toleration.

Question, "That a sum, not exceeding £4,306,820, be granted for the said Service," put, and negatived.

Original Question put, and agreed to.

Motion made, and Question proposed—

"That a sum, not exceeding £549,992, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1898, for the salaries and expenses of the Department of Science and Art, and of the various establishments connected therewith, including sundry grants in aid."

Mr. MUNDELLA said it was impossible to discuss the question to-night. They understood—

Mr. HENRY HOBHOUSE (Somerset, E.) who had given notice of Motion to reduce the Vote by £100, was sorry to interrupt his right hon. Friend, but he had been asked to bring forward certain questions by an important association, and he could not help thinking it desirable in their interests and in those of the public generally, to place his objections before the House as shortly as possible. They ought, in the first place, to recognise the readiness and the completeness with which the Vice President had redeemed his promise to give the House an opportunity of discussing the administration of the Science and Art Department.

The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY, interposing, said he understood this was a Vote which hon. Members had been promised an opportunity of discussing, but he hoped they would not carry the discussion of the Estimates beyond the time at which it would be possible to consider the Scotch Estimate. He suggested that discussion on the Science and Art Vote be postponed, and that in the time remaining before taking up the Congested Districts (Scotland) grant, they might take one or two non-controversial Votes. He moved that the Vote be postponed.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

2. £7,434, to complete the sum for the National Gallery.

***Mr. WOODALL** asked the Secretary to the Treasury for information with regard to the removal of pictures from the National Gallery; what selection was being made from the works of modern painters with which they were all so familiar; and to what extent, and in what direction, the removal was likely to take place?

***Mr. HANBURY** said that, so far as he knew, the only removal contemplated at present was that of the Vernon collection of the works of British artists.

***Mr. WOODALL** asked if he understood aright that only the Vernon collection was to be removed, or were there also to be selections from the works of other modern artists?

***Mr. HANBURY** did not know that there had been as yet any definite decision with regard to the Vernon collection, but that collection, he thought, was the only one there was any idea of removing.

Mr. MUNDELLA: Then the statement made in some of the newspapers that the National Gallery is to be denuded of the works of British artists is not a correct statement?

***Mr. HANBURY**: I am not aware that any definite decision has been arrived at.

***Mr. WOODALL**: Can the House be given some definite idea as to the principle on which the removals are to be made?

***Mr. HANBURY**: No definite decision has been arrived at, therefore I cannot explain the principle on which it is to be taken.

Vote agreed to.

3. £3,613, to complete the sum for the National Portrait Gallery.

Dr. TANNER (Cork Co., Mid) pointed out that there was a considerable increase in salaries and wages and other items, while they were not increasing the value of the collection. The items for salary had actually increased, whilst nothing whatever had been done to increase the number of pictures. He thought they were entitled to some explanation as to how this increase had arisen.

*Mr. HANBURY was glad to give the explanation asked for. The extra charges to which the hon. Member had alluded had arisen from the fact that last year and the year before several of the pictures were wantonly damaged. It was decided to cover a large portion of them with glass, and to put on a number of extra police for their protection. There was also an increase shewn in connection with Sunday opening, and an addition to the Clerk's salary.

Dr. TANNER did not regard the reply as satisfactory. It appeared to him that the right hon. Gentleman was locking the stable door after the horse had been stolen, or had hopped off, and instead of giving that all-round sort of explanation which he had vouchsafed, the Secretary to the Treasury ought to have told them about the increase in connection with the salaries and wages. Some of the incidental expenses might be accounted for by a certan amount of glazing which had been done to certain pictures, but it was very doubtful whether glazing pictures preserved them from injury. As he had failed to receive a satisfactory explanation as to the increase in salaries, he begged to move the reduction of the Vote by £50 on that head.

*Mr. HANBURY had really given the hon. Member a full explanation.

Vote agreed to.

4. £5 to complete the sum for the University of London agreed to.

Resolutions to be reported To-morrow.
Committee to sit again To-morrow.

CONGESTED DISTRICTS (SCOTLAND) [GRANTS].

Resolution reported.

"That it is expedient to authorise the payment, out of moneys to be provided by Parliament, of a sum not exceeding £20,000, for the improvement of Congested Districts in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, and to make provision for the administration and application of the sums available for such purpose."

The LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. Graham Murray, Buteshire) said by the Act of last year £15,000 per annum was consecrated for that purpose. But it was felt that £15,000 was hardly sufficient to conduct the necessary experiments on a scale sufficiently large to have a chance of success, and the Resolution now reported embodied the determination of the Treasury to give an additional sum of £20,000 a year. In framing a Bill to carry out the scheme three points obviously had to be determined—the constitution of the body to administer the money, the area over which it should be administered, and the objects on which the money should be spent. A congested district board might have been created, as in Ireland; but there was a well-founded objection to the multiplication of boards. ["Hear, hear!"] Then it was suggested that the Crofters Commission should be utilised. But that Commission was constituted as a *quasi* judicial body rather than as an administrative body, and, over and above all, it was not directly subject to the administrative control of any Government Department. Accordingly, the idea of utilising the Crofters Commission was abandoned. They had ready to their hands the admirable machinery of the local government. There were, however, objections to putting the money strictly under the Local Government Board as such, and, in particular, it seemed a pity that they should not avail themselves of the admirable experience gained by the Crofters Commission. According to the plan which was worked out in the Bill a Commission would be created which would really be a sort of sub-department of the Local Government Board. He could best explain it by reading the clause which dealt with its constitution, which was as follows:—

> "For the purpose of administering the sums available for the improvement of the congested districts" . . . .

and so on,

> "the following persons shall be Commissioners, called the Congested Districts (Scotland) Commissioners—that is to say, the Secretary for Scotland, the Under Secretary for Scotland, the Chairman of the Local Government Board of Scotland, the Chairman of the Fishery Board of Scotland, the Chairman of the Crofters Commission, and such other persons, not exceeding two, as the Secretary for Scotland may from time to time nominate."

They hoped that by making this selection they had taken the best practical experience which Scotland could at this moment provide, and at the same time they had got a body which would be directly amenable to Parliamentary control. As to the area, it was quite obvious that the districts which wished to be benefited were pretty much the same as the crofting districts; but, on the other hand, there were, of course, some of the crofting districts which were not in any sense of the word congested districts. They had thought it better not to have the absolutely rigid scale provided in the Irish Act, and accordingly the definition of a congested district contained in the Bill was:—

> "The expression 'congested district' means any crofting parish or crofting parishes, or any area in a crofting parish, or crofting parishes, defined by the Commissioners under this Act, which they shall, having regard to the population and valuation thereof, determine to be a congested district."

As regarded the objects for which the money was to be used they had more or less followed the precedent of the Irish Act. The objects included the aiding and developing of agriculture and of the breeding of live stock and poultry in congested districts; the provision of suitable seed potatoes and seed oats for crofters and cottars; the provision of land for sub-division among crofters and cottars for cultivation or grazing; the aiding of the migration of crofters and cottars to other districts and their settlement there; the aiding and developing of fishing and the promotion of industries subservient to the fishing industry; the improvement of public roads and footpaths; the aiding and developing of the spinning, weaving, and other home industries; and the provision and improvement of harbours. He hoped he had clearly explained the scope of the Bill. It was, of course, an experiment, but they hoped when the Bill came to be scrutinised it would be seen that it embodied sufficiently generous proposals to allow of the experiment being conducted on an adequate scale, that it would provide sufficient safeguards for the money being properly spent, and that it would result in the improvement of the prosperity of the Highlands. [*Cheers.*]

Dr. CLARK (Caithness) congratulated the right hon. Gentleman and the Government upon their proposals. He thought that the composition of the Commission would probably require modification, as most of the Gentlemen who had been mentioned were very busy men who would not have much time to spare. On the whole, the explanation of the scheme given by the right hon. Gentleman was fair, free, frank, and full, and he thanked him and the Government for this attempt to solve the problem of the congested districts of Scotland, where the people were huddled together under conditions not at all creditable to the country. The people could not remain in those districts. They must either emigrate or migrate. Emigration had been tried and had entirely failed. He hoped this scheme of migration would prove a complete success.

Mr. THOMAS HEDDERWICK (Wick Burghs) asked whether the salaries of the Commissioners were to come out of the £20,000.

*Mr. J. G. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty) joined with his hon. Friend the Member for Caithness in congratulating the Government on this attempt to do something for the Highlands of Scotland. The scheme would certainly relieve some of the existing distress, but it would not solve the question of the Highlands. A good deal would depend upon the Commissioners. He sincerely hoped they would not be ornamental, but that useful and practical men, having a thorough knowledge of the needs and requirements of the Highlands, would be appointed.

Dr. **FARQUHARSON** (Aberdeenshire, W.) said that, although he did not represent what was popularly called a crofters' district, he joined in the congratulations of the Government on introducing this Bill. The Crofters Act was a great success, except that it did not realise the desire of the crofters for more land; but he thought the Bill would supply that defect and thereby contribute to the peace and prosperity of the Highlands.

Mr. **CALDWELL** asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether they were to understand that the money was to come out of the Imperial purse, pure and simple, or out of what was technically termed Scotch money. He agreed with the Lord Advocate that the policy was to help out of the Imperial purse those districts of the country which required assistance, but unfortunately they knew what had happened in the case of the £15,000 already granted. That sum was really taken out of what was purely Scotch money. Was it intended to take the present £20,000 out of Scotch money? [The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER: "No!"] That being the case, the Scotch people could have no objection to the proposal. He was not sure, however, that the Bill would properly grapple with congestion in Scotland. The real difficulty was that the crofting holdings were so small that even if no rent at all were required, it was not possible for any one to get a living out of them.

Mr. **PARKER SMITH** (Lanark, Partick) thought it right to express the opinion that Scotch Members sitting on Government Benches were just as gratified as hon. Members opposite at the prospect of the Bill the Lord Advocate had described. They had felt rather strongly the somewhat rough and inconsiderate reduction of the Vote respecting harbours and public works in Scotland, but this grant would to some extent cover the ground.

The **LORD ADVOCATE** said as regarded the money, there was no doubt that £20,000 would come out of the Imperial Treasury. As to the other matters raised by the hon. Member, they could be left to the future. As to the salaries of the Board as already constituted, they had salaries, and as to the others the charge would be, of course, met by money provided out of the Bill. That was obviously a small matter. The two nominated members would be unpaid. Their local knowledge would be calculated to give assistance. As to the compulsory acquisition of land, in the present condition of the land market they did not think there would be any difficulty in getting land if that land was properly paid for.

Resolution agreed to.—Bill ordered to be brought in by the Lord Advocate and Mr. Anstruther.

CONGESTED DISTRICTS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Bill to provide for the administration of sums available for the improvement of Congested Districts in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland; presented accordingly, and Read the First time; to be Read a Second time upon Monday next, and to be printed.—[Bill 289.]

FINANCE BILL.

Committee deferred till Thursday next.

FOREIGN PRISON-MADE GOODS BILL.

Adjourned Debate on Motion for Committal to Standing Committee on Trade, Etc. [17th May] further adjourned till Thursday next.

POLICE (PROPERTY) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Monday next.

PUBLIC HEALTH (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Consideration, as amended by the Standing Committee, deferred till Thursday next.

POST OFFICE (SITES) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Monday next.

METROPOLITAN WATER COMPANIES BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Thursday next.

DANGEROUS PERFORMANCES BILL.

Committee deferred till Monday next.

LAND TRANSFER BILL [H.L.].

Second Reading deferred till Thursday next.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES (METRIC SYSTEM) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Monday next.

BERRIEW SCHOOL BILL.

Adjourned Debate on Third Reading [24th May] further adjourned till Thursday next.

PRISONS BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Thursday next.

SCHOOL BOARDS' EXPENSES BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Monday next.

BICYCLES (IRELAND) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Thursday next.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ALDERSHOT AND FARNBOROUGH) BILL.

Adjourned Debate on Second Reading [1st April] further adjourned till Thursday next.

BURIAL GROUNDS LOANS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Adjourned Debate on Second Reading [11th May] further adjourned till Thursday next.

ISLE OF MAN (CHURCH BUILDING ACTS) BILL [H.L.].

Second Reading deferred till Monday next.

STIPENDIARY MAGISTRATES' JURISDICTION (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Thursday next.

POOR LAW BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Thursday next.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND) [GRANTS].

Committee thereupon deferred till Monday next.

WORKMEN (COMPENSATION FOR ACCIDENTS) BILL.

Consideration, as amended, deferred till Thursday next.

Whereupon Motion made, and Question, "That this House do now adjourn"—(*First Lord of the Treasury*)—put, and agreed to.

House Adjourned accordingly at a Quarter before Twelve o'Clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Friday, 18th June 1897.

The House re-assembled after the Whitsuntide recess.

SAT FIRST.

Lord Congleton sat first in Parliament after the death of his father.

FISHERIES ACT AMENDMENT BILL [H.L.].

Considered in Committee (according to Order); Amendments made; Standing Committee negatived; and Bill to be printed as Amended.—[No. 123.]

MERSEY CHANNELS BILL.

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read, and discharged.

MERCHANT SHIPPING (UNDERMANNING) BILL.

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read, and discharged.

EXTRAORDINARY TITHE BILL.

Brought from the Commons, and Read 1ª.—[No. 124.]

PATENT OFFICE EXTENSION BILL.

Brought from the Commons, and Read 1ª.—[No. 125.]

POOR LAW OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION ACT (1896) AMENDMENT BILL.

Brought from the Commons, and Read 1ª.—[No. 126.]

PUBLIC OFFICES (WHITEHALL) SITE BILL.

Brought from the Commons, and Read 1ª.—[No. 127.]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR (Lord HALSBURY) said, at the request of his noble Friend at the head of the Government (Lord Salisbury) he wished to ask their Lordships to meet on Monday next at Two o'clock. The reason why his noble Friend desired this was that he had on the afternoon of that day to meet the Special Envoys from Foreign Powers, and if the House met at the usual hour his noble Friend would be unable to move the Address to Her Gracious Majesty himself, which he desired to do. [*Cheers.*] The only alternative was to ask their Lordships to be good enough at the rising of the House to adjourn to Monday at Two o'clock. [*Cheers.*]

QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE.

COMMEMORATION SERVICE AT WESTMINSTER ABBEY.

Resolved, That in celebration of the Sixtieth Year of Her Majesty's Reign this House do attend at Westminster Abbey on Sunday next.—*(The Lord Chancellor.)*

House Adjourned at Twenty Minutes before Five o'Clock, to Monday next, Two o'Clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Friday, 18th June 1897.

QUESTIONS.

RAILWAY MAPS.

MR. JOHN ELLIS (Nottingham, Rushcliffe): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he can state whether any arrangement has been arrived at with the railway companies as to the sale to the public of the Airey Maps, as was the case prior to 1894?

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. C. T. RITCHIE, Croydon): I am happy to state that, after negotiations conducted by the Department, the following letter has been received from the Railway Clearing House:—

> "I am instructed now to inform you that the Clearing House Committee have decided that, in addition to the general railway maps of England, Scotland, and Ireland now on sale, sectional railway maps and diagrams indicating the different lines of railway and showing distances between stations, shall also be placed on sale to the public."

ARMY CLOTHING DEPARTMENT.

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether a decision has yet been arrived at on the memorial addressed to the Secretary of State for War on 18th January last by the Second Division Clerks employed in the Royal Army Clothing Department; and whether, seeing that the bulk of the supervising work of that Department is now performed by these officers owing to the number of subordinate clerical employés having been largely increased without any addition having been made to the number of officials of higher rank actually engaged on supervision, and that, notwithstanding this performance of superior duties, no Second Division Clerk has yet been promoted to the higher division, or to a permanent staff post, or to the higher grade of the Second Division for exceptional merit, the claims of these clerks to promotion will be considered?

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE WAR OFFICE (Mr. POWELL-WILLIAMS, Birmingham, S.): The whole question of the decentralisation of Army Clothing has been referred to a Special Committee, and the status of the civilian establishment at Pimlico is an element in the Inquiry. No steps can therefore be taken on the memorial referred to until the Committee reports.

QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE.

MR. W. H. MYERS (Winchester): I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works if he will kindly state by whose authority a large stand has been built on the northern side of Trafalgar Square, whereby a large portion of the public is excluded from viewing the Royal Procession?

THE FIRST COMMISSIONER OF WORKS (Mr. AKERS-DOUGLAS, Kent, St. Augustine's): The permission for the erection of the stand in question was given by me. The stand is built in the well of the square on ground from which it would have been impossible for anyone to have seen the Procession.

MR. J. L. WANKLYN (Bradford, Central): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies if all the detachments of Indian and colonial troops who are visiting the United Kingdom as the guests of the nation in connection with the Jubilee have now arrived; and, if so, whether the Colonial Office will publish a list of these Jubilee guests, setting out the localities from which they come, the name of the officer in command of each detachment, the name of the officer detailed by the Home Authorities to attend to each detachment, the total number of each detachment, the quarters where they are stationed, the arrangements which have been made for their entertainment during their visit, and any other information which may be of service to those who desire to offer hospitality to these national guests?

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.): It is expected that the entire colonial contingent will have arrived at Chelsea Barracks by this evening. A list of the various detachments, and of the Colonies they represent, has already been published in the Press, and I will consider whether any further details may advantageously be added.

MR. WANKLYN: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty if arrangements will be made for the detachments of Indian and colonial troops who are visiting the United Kingdom as the guests of the nation to witness the Naval Review free of charge, and to be suitably entertained upon that occasion at the expense of the nation?

MR. WILLIAM ALLAN (Gateshead): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether steps can be taken to give the colonial troops now here ar opportunity of witnessing the Naval Review; and whether the railway companies could be induced to grant free passes to those troops and the colonial rifle teams now here, so that they might have an opportunity of seeing the places of interest in their Mother Country?

Sir JOHN COLOMB (Great Yarmouth): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty whether, in view of the dependence of the Colonies upon sea communication, and having regard to the Resolution of the Parliament of Cape Colony respecting contribution to the Fleet, any arrangements have been made for enabling the officers and men of the colonial forces now in this country to witness the Naval Review; and, if so, to state what is the nature of arrangements made?

The FIRST LORD of the ADMIRALTY (Mr. Goschen, St. George's, Hanover Square): Arrangements have been in progress from the first for the officers and men of the colonial forces (about 800 in number) to see the ships assembled at Spithead. A special train will be provided to take them to Portsmouth on the morning of June 30, and to bring them back in the evening. The party will be taken round the Fleet in dockyard steamers, and an opportunity will be given to them to visit certain ships. If time admits, the party will also be shown round the dockyard. Luncheon will be provided in the dockyard. The officers belonging to Her Majesty's Indian forces will have an opportunity of seeing the Fleet at Spithead on Saturday, June 26. There are no troops in England.

Mr. WANKLYN: Am I to understand, from what the right hon. Gentleman has said, that these detachments of Indian and colonial troops will not be entertained on the 26th, the day of the Review, and that no provision will be made for them?

The FIRST LORD of the ADMIRALTY: I have stated the arrangements which have been made. All the Indian officers, 62 in number, will go down on the 26th, and they will be provided for as other visitors will be. The 800 troops will go down on Wednesday, the 30th, and the whole day will be appropriated to them, and they will see all the ships. ["Hear, hear!"] Individual attention will be paid to them, and I think they will come back realising not only the strength of the forces at Spithead, but also the enormous resources of the dockyard. ["Hear, hear!"] I can assure the House and the public on the point that, in making the arrangements, we have been most anxious to give our colonial fellow-subjects even more special attention than they would have had if they had gone down with the thousands on the day of the Review. [*Cheers.*]

Mr. G. C. T. BARTLEY (Islington, N.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether arrangements can be made by which the colonial and Indian troops can visit the north of London?

The UNDER SECRETARY of STATE for WAR (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford): The time has elapsed in which it would be practicable to make arrangements for other marches through London than those already decided on.

Mr. ARTHUR JEFFREYS (Hants, Basingstoke): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War what arrangements have been made to enable Members of Parliament to witness the review at Aldershot on 1st July; and whether, in the event of stands being erected, seats will be allotted to the wives and families of soldiers quartered at Aldershot?

Mr. BRODRICK: Arrangements have been made to enable Members of both Houses of Parliament to see the review at Aldershot. Information as to the conditions will be duly advertised. One thousand one hundred free tickets have been assigned to the general officer commanding at Aldershot, and the space for carriages has been placed under his control, to be apportioned as he may think fit, among residents in the camp and neighbourhood.

General Sir HENRY HAVELOCK-ALLAN (Durham, S.E.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether, seeing how amply the other portions of the United Kingdom (England, Scotland, and Wales) are represented by their national regiments at the Diamond Jubilee on the 22nd instant, arrangements can be made that the composite Irish regiment that has been brought over from Ireland, composed of detachments of which the Royal Irish Regiment is the senior, a corps which has a history of 213 years and no less than 64 engagements inscribed on its record, and which has always been considered the Royal Regiment of Ireland, may be retained here to march past at the Jubilee Review at Aldershot on the 1st July, and in the meantime may be allowed the privilege of furnishing a guard of honour to Her Most Gracious Majesty, as has been allowed to the Royal West Surrey Regiment for the 22nd instant?

Mr. BRODRICK: The Question of my gallant Friend refers, I presume, to the composite battalion which is to represent the Irish Militia at the Jubilee ceremonial, of which battalion a detachment of the Royal Irish Regiment forms part. The period of training of the 3rd Battalion Royal Irish Regiment expires on the 26th inst., and therefore a special Order in Council would be necessary to keep the detachment under arms. Even if so retained it would not be large enough to furnish Her Majesty's guard of honour. I may add that the West Surrey Regiment furnishes the guard of honour for the Jubilee, not because it is an English regiment, but because it happens to be the senior line regiment represented on the occasion.

Major JAMESON (Clare, W.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether, if the colonial troops are to be started two hours in advance of the general procession on Tuesday next, he would consider the propriety of keeping the colonial troops in the general procession and of sending, if necessary, some less representative part of the general procession in their place?

Mr. BRODRICK: The object of starting the colonial procession earlier than the main procession is twofold. First, that the colonial troops shall themselves be seen along the whole route; and, secondly, that they shall witness the passing of the main procession of Her Majesty, which none of the troops forming the main procession will do. This is effected by starting the colonial procession early and using it to line Ludgate Hill while the Queen passes. It will then form again and march in rear of the main procession for the rest of the route.

Mr. JOHN AIRD (Paddington, N.): I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works if Hyde Park will be open for carriage traffic from the Marble Arch to Hyde Park Corner on Jubilee Day?

Mr. AKERS-DOUGLAS: In reply to my hon. Friend, I have heard from the Commissioner of Police that Hyde Park will be open for carriage traffic all day on the 22nd inst., but the gates at Hyde Park Corner will be closed after 8.30 a.m. until the military are withdrawn from the route of the Queen's Procession.

Mr. REGINALD McKENNA (Monmouth, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the officers of constabulary forces will receive any recognition for long service, in commemoration of the Jubilee?

The SECRETARY of STATE for the HOME DEPARTMENT (Sir Matthew White Ridley, Lancashire, Blackpool): I am afraid that this is not a matter on which I am able to give the House any information.

Mr. AIRD: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if Members will be allowed their usual privileges on Jubilee Day in access to and from the House; and, if arrangements could be made for giving Members a special pass for use on that day?

Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY: I think the hon. Member will see that it would be quite impossible for the police to maintain a line for the procession if Members were to exercise their privileges as regards access to the House by or across the streets which form part of the route of the procession. The police have orders to afford every possible facility for the carriages of Members to reach New Palace Yard on the tickets of admission being shown; and if, as I hope, Members will, after the hours laid down in the regulations, approach the House otherwise than by the line of route, they will, I think, experience no difficulty. ["Hear, hear!"]

Captain PIRIE (Aberdeen, N.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether, in view of the allowance to volunteers taking part in the celebration of Her Majesty's Jubilee in London having been fixed at 1s. for each volunteer for those corps whose headquarters are under 50 miles from London, and 2s. for those whose headquarters are over 50 miles distant, the Government will be prepared to take special consideration of the case of the Scottish volunteers, with a view of defraying to a certain extent the extra travelling expenses entailed on Scottish corps by their increased distance from London as compared with English corps?

Mr. BRODRICK: The allowances (to volunteers) referred to are to meet incidental charges and are not for travelling expenses. Corps electing to attend the Jubilee Celebrarion will be expected to make their own arrangements for travelling.

Mr. LEES KNOWLES (Salford, W.): On behalf of the hon. Member for the Ecclesall Division (Sir Ellis Ashmead-Bartlett) I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty whether he will arrange for Members of the House of Commons and their friends to go on board the *Campania* on Friday night for the Naval Review?

The SECRETARY to the ADMIRALTY (Mr. W. E. Macartney, Antrim, S.), who answered the Question, said: The time of arrival of the *Campania* at Southampton will not admit of the arrangement suggested by the hon. Member.

Sir E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT [who had in the meantime entered the House] asked whether it would not be possible, in view of the great convenience it would be to Members of the House to go on board the *Campania* on Friday night, to make arrangements for the vessel to be at Southampton a little earlier?

Mr. MACARTNEY: No, Sir. I regret to say it is absolutely impossible to make any arrangements to berth the *Campania* before Saturday morning.

CONTEMPT OF COURT (ST. VINCENT).

*Sir CHARLES DILKE (Gloucester, Forest of Dean): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is aware that Mr. C. J. McLeod, Barrister-at-Law, was, on the 4th May, committed to the Kingstown Prison, in the Island of St. Vincent, for 14 days, without the option of a fine, for contempt of court, by Mr. Geoffrey St. Aubyn, sitting as acting Chief Justice; whether he can inform the House of what the alleged contempt of court consisted; and whether, supposing the allegation itself to be true, the opinion of the Law Officers of the Crown has been taken on the legality of the procedure and sentence?

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN: No official report of the matter has been received, but the Governor of the Windward Islands has been asked to furnish one, and, in the meantime, I cannot express any opinion upon the case.

EDUCATION (INDIA).

Mr. HENRY J. WILSON (York, W.R., Holmfirth): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India why the Government of India maintains colleges for the higher education of Hindus and Mahommedans in India, and why no similar provision is made for Europeans and Eurasians?

The SECRETARY of STATE for INDIA (Lord George Hamilton, Middlesex, Ealing): The Government of India does not maintain colleges for the higher education of Hindus and Mahommedans. The Madrissa schools were established for Mahommedans requiring to be instructed in Persian and Arabic, but the students in the college department of those schools attend lectures in the Presidency College. With this exception Government colleges and higher schools are open to all classes without distinction.

POSTAGE (FOREIGN LETTERS).

Mr. HENNIKER HEATON (Canterbury): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether the postage of Foreign letters is higher in England than in any other country in Europe; whether the proposal of Great Britain to reduce the postage for Foreign and Colonial letters from 2½d. to 2d. has been rejected at the Postal Union Congress at Washington; and, what course the Government intend to take in consequence?

*The SECRETARY to the TREASURY (Mr. R. W. Hanbury, Preston): As the hon. Member is aware, the standard rate of postage is fixed by the Union in centimes, and where centimes enter into the coinage, as in France, Belgium, and Switzerland, the postage is exactly that which is sanctioned by the Union. In this country there is no exact equivalent, and the practice has been to collect 2½d., which is undoubtedly a little more than is charged in most of the other European countries. The Postmaster General has not yet received the report of the British delegates, and he is not, therefore, in a position to state what has taken place at the Congress at Washington or what course the Government will adopt.

MR. HENNIKER HEATON asked whether the right hon. Gentleman was aware that Austria sent 120 letters to England against 94 letters sent from England to Austria.

*MR. HANBURY: The charges on letters from Austria to England are considerably below 25 centimes. There are other countries—I think Russia, Sweden, and Norway—where the charges are above that sum.

VOLUNTARY SCHOOLS.

MR. WINGFIELD-DIGBY (Dorset, N.): I beg to ask the Vice President of the Committee of Council on Education whether the Education Department have ever refused to recognise any association of Voluntary Schools which comprises less than 200 different schools; and, whether the Education Department have any intention of refusing to recognise associations of schools comprised in a civil area, so as to force them into an ecclesiastical area against the wishes of the managers and supporters of those schools?

THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL (Sir JOHN GORST, Cambridge University): The Department has laid down no hard-and-fast rule as to the number of schools which should comprise an association. The Department have in no case refused to recognise a civil area, if sufficiently large and generally desired by the managers of schools within such area.

ZANZIBAR (SLAVERY).

MR. THOMAS BAYLEY (Derbyshire, Chesterfield): I beg to ask the Attorney General (1) has his attention been called to the fact that, on the mainland in the British Protectorate of Zanzibar, British subjects are administering the law which acknowledges the legal status of slavery; (2) whether there are Orders in Council applying to the mainland opposite Zanzibar the claims of the Indian Act against slavery; and (3) whether it is lawful for a British subject to detain a slave against his will in territories under British administration?

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Sir RICHARD WEBSTER, Isle of Wight): My attention has not been called to the facts stated in the first paragraph of the hon. Member's Question, but I believe that it is the fact that on the mainland dominions of the Sultan of Zanzibar officers of the British Protectorate superintend the administration of the native law as affecting his subjects. There are no Orders in Council applying to them when acting in this capacity. The answer to the third paragraph is in the negative; but I am not aware that any case of the kind has arisen.

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION (COLONIAL RIFLE TEAMS).

MR. W. REDMOND (Clare, E.) asked the Secretary to the Colonies whether the arrangements which had been made to enable the colonial troops to see the Naval Review and for their entertainment otherwise, applied also to the men of the colonial rifle teams who had come over here for the first time to compete at Bisley?

MR. CHAMBERLAIN: I am sorry to say my right hon. Friend the First Lord of the Admiralty has left the House. The Question should be put to him, because the arrangements are being made by the Admiralty. I am unable to answer the Question.

MR. W. REDMOND asked whether the right hon. Gentleman would be good enough to consider the advisability of including the men of the rifle teams?

MR. CHAMBERLAIN: I shall be happy to speak to the First Lord of the Admiralty about it.

COLONIAL SOLICITORS BILL.

Second Reading deferred from this day till Monday next.

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

SUPPLY.

[TWELFTH ALLOTTED DAY.]

Considered in Committee.

[The CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS, Mr. J. W. LOWTHER, in the Chair.]

CIVIL SERVICE ESTIMATES, 1897-8.

CLASS VI.

1. £273,781, to complete the sum for Superannuation and Retired Allowances.—Agreed to.

2. £2,350, to complete the sum for Merchant Seamen's Fund Pensions.—Agreed to.

3. £813, to complete the sum for Miscellaneous Charitable and other Allowances, Great Britain.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucester, Forest of Dean) asked the Secretary to the Treasury if he could give the Committee any explanation of Item A, which referred to foreign refugees.

*THE SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. R. W. HANBURY, Preston) said there was only one Spanish refugee left—[*laughter*]—and special care had been taken to find out what he was actually about. When he came into office he had special inquiry made at once with regard to all these persons, and there was no doubt that at that time they were all in existence.

Vote agreed to.

CLASS VII.

4. Motion made and Question proposed,—

> "That a sum, not exceeding £19,923, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1898, for the salaries and other expenses of Temporary Commissions and Committees, including Special Inquiries."

*SIR C. DILKE said the Vote for commissions was one he always viewed with a good deal of suspicion, and was one which had been frequently mentioned on former occasions. On the present occasion he should like the Secretary to the Treasury to tell them what the Colonisation Board did. Personally, he believed it had been a total failure.

*MR. HANBURY presumed that, in using the word "failure," the right hon. Baronet referred to the failure of the effort to colonise certain people from the Highlands and Islands of Scotland who were settled in Canada. A good deal of money had been lost on this scheme, but the expenses of this Board had little to do with the actual expenses of the scheme. The sum in the Vote was a payment to the Board to report as to how that scheme was going on and to watch, as it were, the progress of the colonisation scheme, and to trace, as far as possible, the history of the various emigrants. It was a very small charge in comparison with the very large sums which had been spent on this rather unfortunate scheme, but it was absolutely necessary, while the scheme existed, to have somebody to watch it and to report to the Government.

DR. CLARK (Caithness) was of opinion that it would be a foolish thing to throw any more money away on this foolish scheme. For the last ten years they had been spending from £300 to £800 a year upon two sets of crofters that they sent out. Some two or three years after they were sent out he went himself to look at the Colonies, and at the first one he went to see he found that every one of the houses had been deserted. They had all given up their holdings, and the men were working as labourers in the neighbouring timber yard. This Board was appointed for the purpose of getting back some of the two sums of £10,000 which had been spent, but they had got none back. It had been all lost. In the place where some of the people did remain he believed they were ultimately sold up for arrears of taxes, so that the experiment both at Killarney and Saltcoats had been a dead failure, and to keep up this Board and to pay for the officials seemed to him to be the height of folly. The experiment had been a failure; why not leave it alone? Unless the Secretary to the Treasury were prepared now to let the thing drop altogether he should be compelled to take a Division against the Vote.

SIR J. LENG (Dundee) said it had been rumoured that it was intended to bring the Scottish Universities Commission to an end, but he wished to point out that that Commission had not yet completed its work. Hon. Members might have seen in *The Times* recently an article referring to "the academic crisis in Scotland," as it was called. The University Commission passed certain ordinances confirming an agreement for affiliation between the University College in Dundee and the University of St. Andrews. The college in Dundee was established under a recent and most handsome endowment of £130,000. It began its work under most hopeful auspices. Its professors under that endowment were men of eminence, several of whom had been promoted to the first professional seats in the country. The establishment of the college was especially looked forward to with hope on the scientific side, and also as a means of setting up a medical school in Dundee. They had a splendid hospital, with a large number of beds, and no better hospital could be found in the country for medical students to attend. It would also be a great relief in some respects to the overcrowded classes in Edinburgh. Unfortunately, although the scheme of affiliation was entered into on the part of the College authorities, after very considerable negotiation and correspondence between them and the University, the mediæval party in the latter resolved to oppose association with the new college in the town—a comparatively old town with very large modern developments. On technical grounds the University obtained a decision in the House of Lords against the strict legality of the first ordinance. The matter then came before the Committee of the Privy Council, and the decision of the Privy Council, although not in all respects favourable to Dundee, yet cleared the way for a joint agreement between the old University and the new College. But the University party determined, with all its wealth at its back, to worry and harass the Dundee College by protracted expensive litigation. Practically refusing to recognise the decision of the Privy Council, they again, on technical grounds, brought an action in the Court of Session, Edinburgh, which opened a vista of long-continued litigation. There might be an appeal to the House of Lords, a second decision might be appealed against, and litigation might go on for years. In the meantime, the purposes for which this admirably administered college at Dundee was established would be practically frustrated, and funds which should go for the improvement of the college were diverted by this expensive litigation, and the council of the college, consisting of authorities of the town, professors, and representative men of the district, were continually worried and harassed. The Ordinance, which had been appealed against in the House of Lords and brought under the notice of the Committee of the Privy Council, was the work of this Universities Commission, and, as one of the Representatives of Dundee, he made bold to say that the work of the Commission would not be completed until it had framed and was able to enforce its own order for the affiliation of Dundee College with the University. It would be most unfortunate if the Commission were not maintained until it had completed this work. If the Commission had shown more firmness, perhaps litigation might have been averted, but he did not blame the Commission; it was composed of a number of eminent and able men, who, no doubt, had done what they considered best under the circumstances. But they would not have finished their work until they had established the validity of their own order. He therefore brought this matter under the notice of the Treasury, and, not seeing the Lord Advocate in his place, he hoped the Secretary would be prepared to give an assurance that the Universities Commission would be maintained at least until this work was fully completed.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis) referred to the Historical Manuscripts Commission. No doubt the Commission had done useful work, and historically useful material had been published, but he suggested that a little more care might be exercised in the selection of matter for publication. He would like to know the conditions under which these manuscripts, when printed in book form, were distributed and sold; whether there was any return for a large public expense. He had read most of the publications, and his personal opinion was that too much of the matter consisted of historical gossip of no great value. He also desired to know how far the researches of the Commission extended. He observed that most of them were private papers, but he believed there were a great many valuable manuscripts in the House of Lords. Would they come within the purview of the Commission?

Captain BETHELL (York, W.R., Holderness) hoped the advice would not be taken to invite the Commission to be more restrictive in their selection. Their work as carried out was most useful.

Dr. CLARK (Caithness) understood that the Universities Commission would be continued for some months longer until the Commissioners could deal with points yet remaining unsettled, including the matter referred to by his hon. Friend the Member for Dundee. It was quite time the relations between the University of St. Andrews and the Dundee College were settled. Much money had been spent in litigation, and the position of the college remained uncertain in relation to the Universities grant. The Commission had to determine the proportions of the grant to the Scottish Universities, and it would be an unfortunate thing if the Commission should cease while its work was incomplete.

Mr. MELLOR (York, W.R., Sowerby), without going into the whole question as between the University and the College of Dundee, said the statement of his hon. Friend behind him was amply justified by the facts. So far as he understood, the college at Dundee was admirably situated, had an able staff, and it was much to be regretted that means had not been found to stop the costly litigation to which it had been subjected. He hoped that the Commission might be continued in order that the college of Dundee might be relieved from this litigation and assume its proper place as a college affiliated to the University.

Mr. J. H. DALZIEL (Kirkcaldy Burghs) desired to emphasise what his hon. Friend had said with regard to the period of time during which this Commission had existed. Three or four years ago he got a pledge from the right hon. Gentleman who occupied the position now occupied by the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary to the Treasury, that this Commission would probably report within the succeeding few months. Now the Commission for some extraordinary reason had gone on year after year, and the House had been asked to vote money for rather high salaries for certain officials, and as far as he had been able to see, the public had obtained no corresponding advantage from the expenditure. The right hon. Gentleman himself, if he were on that side of the House, would make some strong remarks as to the period during which the Commission had existed, and he was sure he would not recede from the position he took up at that time. Rightly or wrongly, there was a feeling in Scotland that the Commission had gone on a little too long. No doubt there were some points still unsettled; but every Commission could find points to settle if certain officials were anxious that the Commission should not be dissolved. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would take care, if the Commission were to go on any longer, to see that some work was done. ["Hear, hear!"] It was very nearly time, in his opinion, that the Commission came to an end, and he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would facilitate that as soon as possible. ["Hear, hear!"] With regard to the Old Age Pensions Commission, he wished the right hon. Gentleman could tell them if there was any information of what the Commission was doing. Since its appointment there had been no public intimation whatever of the proceedings of the Commission, and he hoped the Secretary to the Treasury would be able to tell them what it had been doing, and when they might expect some report. ["Hear, hear!"]

*Mr. HANBURY entirely agreed that it was time the University Commission came to an end. The Treasury had done their best by cutting down the Estimates last year to four months' salaries, and this year to three months'—a pretty clear indication of their view as to the continuation of the Commission. They had even gone further, and had turned the Commission out of their old quarters. But until the pending litigation was concluded—and he believed the question between Dundee and St. Andrews was the only one really left open—he was afraid the Commission must be continued. The staff and salaries should be cut down as much as possible, but it was absolutely necessary that the skeleton of a Commission should be kept in existence, until a decision was come to upon the one point not yet settled. With regard to the Colonisation Commission, he hoped the hon. Member for Caithness would not divide the Committee. The Government were as anxious as himself to bring the Commission to an end; but it was of real importance, as long as there were any settlers whose interests had to be guarded, that they should have the means of doing so. He agreed, however, that the expenses should be cut down as much as possible. The hon. Member for King's Lynn had put questions with regard to the Historical Manuscripts Commission. In the first place, he had asked whether the work of the Commission extended to the House of Lords. Up to the end of last year there was upon the Vote a charge for calendaring the MSS. of the House of Lords; but he thought the charge ought properly to fall upon the House of Lords Vote. The work was done by the officials of that House, and of course the cost should be paid out of that Vote. There had been a parallel instance in the case of the Council Office. His hon. Friend had also asked a question as to the distribution of what he ventured to describe as the very valuable Reports of the Historical Manuscripts Commission. It had been suggested that a little more care might be exercised in selecting what was published. He did not profess to have read the Reports, but he had occasionally looked into them, and he regarded them as most valuable historical records, and he should be sorry to see their volume diminished. But it did strike him that such valuable documents ought to command a fair public sale. They ought to do something, in the first instance, to make the Reports more popular. He had suggested to the Master of the Rolls that, as this was a work that would go on for a considerable time, it might be handed over to the Record Office, instead of leaving it in the hands of what was called a Temporary Commission. But he was bound to say the reply of the Master of the Rolls on this point was convincing. There were a number of persons of considerable influence on the Commission who were able to get private owners of manuscripts to give permission for their being calendared, which permission might not be so readily given to permanent officials. The hon. Member for Oswestry, at the beginning of the Session, put a question as to the order of publication and the numbering of the volumes. He had arranged that this should be altered, so that manuscripts belonging to any particular collection would follow each other in consecutive order. There was an idea also of printing them on a little better paper. There was a certain amount of waste arising from the fact that because technically these volumes were Reports of a Royal Commission they had to be circulated gratuitously to Members of both Houses. He thought Members should in future be required to pay for copies if they required them. [*Dissent.*] He could not see why, on a merely technical ground, these Reports should be distributed wholesale. [HON. MEMBERS: "Only on application!"] The applications had been very considerable; nearly everybody had applied for them.

*MR. J. G. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty) said the reply of the right hon. Gentleman on the question of the Colonisation Commission was extremely unsatisfactory. He said the matter would be settled as soon as possible. But when would that be? It was quite ten years ago that the Commission was appointed. He wanted the right hon. Gentleman to tell him what the Secretary to the Commission did for his £100 a year? What, also, did Mr. Borrowdale, the agent in Canada, do for his salary? He was paid £250 a year for attending to the interests of a few settlers, and £75 was allowed him for travelling expenses. He pressed for a promise that these salaries should be reduced. If any useful work were being done he should not object. But as practically no work was done by these persons, unless the right hon. Gentleman would promise to take immediate steps, not in the far future or as soon as possible, but immediate steps, for a substantial reduction of these salaries, he should go to a Division on the Vote.

*MR. HANBURY remarked that fresh information had been supplied by the hon. Member who had just sat down, who assured him positively that nothing was being done by the Commission; but he might say that the information was very different from that which he received officially. He did not want to throw doubt on the accuracy of the hon. Member's statement; but naturally he looked into the Vote carefully before submitting it to the House, and he could assure the hon. Member that his statement that no good work was being done by the Commission was a surprise to him.

DR. CLARK would like to know what had been done. He had been watching the Commission for the last ten or a dozen years, and he did not know that at present anything at all was being done. Some eleven or twelve years ago several gentlemen, including the Lord Provost of Glasgow, formed themselves into a Committee, subscribed money, and asked for powers to enable them to try an experiment in colonisation; and a considerable sum was given them for the purpose of aiding that experiment. What had been the result of the experience of ten years? Several years ago he was himself upon a Select Committee of that House to inquire into the matter. He found the evidence so conflicting that he thought it best to go over to Canada and see for himself what the condition of things was. He went over there seven or eight years ago. He first went to Saltcoats, and he found, as he stated at the time, that everyone of the cottiers who had gone there had given up his place and gone away to labour in the timber trade, in which they were doing much better; so that the place was abandoned years ago. As far as Killarney was concerned, which had been the most successful settlement, a number of people were still there; but the last information he had was that they were going to be turned out for not paying their rates. They got credit from the merchant, took expensive teams, and bought expensive machinery, and for years they had been hopelessly crushed by debt, and a large number of them had given it up for something else. There were very few of the settlers left to look after, so that it was practically useless paying an agent £5 a week to look after half-a-dozen people. The Government should recognise that this money was practically lost, and agree to wipe it off.

*MR. HANBURY entirely agreed with what had already been said, that it appeared desirable that, if possible, the present state of things should come to an end. But there was still some work to be done in Canada, owing to the very fact that the matter had been such a failure. There was, as had been said, Government money and Government payments to be recovered from the settlers, and the Government were doing their best to get the money. Those settlers wanted very careful watching indeed; they were bolting in every direction, and this money was employed in keeping a careful watch.

DR. CLARK: They could not give you a penny in the pound.

MR. ALEXANDER URE (Linlithgow) observed that he had had occasion to investigate the position of the litigation over the Ordinances with the view of seeing what could be done to bring to an end this lamentable state of affairs. No doubt the litigation was a very serious difficulty in the way of achieving the end which the Member for Kirkcaldy and he desired. The litigation had for its object the setting aside altogether of some Ordinances that were passed by the University Commissioners. The Secretary to the Treasury had said that the litigation had been going on for some time; unfortunately that was not so. If it had been going on for some time they would have cherished a reasonable prospect of its speedy termination. But the present state of the litigation was only commenced this summer, and so far as he was aware no progress had yet been made in the Court of Session. If a decision were obtained before the Court rose, which it did on the 20th of July, the case would no doubt, judging by past experience of litigation, be taken to the Appeal Court. The judgment of the Appeal Court would be obtained some time in the winter session, and after that the unsuccessful litigant had a period of two years during which he might consider the question whether he was going to appeal to the House of Lords. That was a very lamentable prospect. Was there no remedy for the mischief? Some time ago the Member for South Edinburgh asked the Lord Advocate whether the attention of the

Government had been directed to this matter, which was virtually a public calamity in Scotland, and whether anything could be done. The Lord Advocate said the attention of the Government had been directed, and something would be done, but they had heard nothing further. So far as he could see, if the litigation were to proceed, all that the Government could do was to pay the expenses of the people on whose side their sympathies lay. But even if they came to the assistance of the offenders, that long vista of legal proceedings would have to be gone through, and they would still have a prolonged delay before an end was brought to the business. If unfortunately the pursuers were successful, the Ordinances would be set aside, and some body would have to be brought into existence to pass Ordinances. He would suggest as a remedy that the Government should bring in a Bill of a single clause, validating all the Ordinances that had been passed by the Commissioners. If that were passed the University Commissioners might be dissolved, and the affiliation between the College of Dundee and the University of St. Andrews would be completed. Some Members might say that that would be an unwarrantable interference by Parliament with a court of law. That might be so, but if they were all desirous that the Ordinances should be sustained, why should the course he suggested not be taken? The challenge of the Ordinances was made upon purely technical grounds. ["Hear, hear!"] On their merits nobody disputed that the Ordinances were calculated to bring great advantage both to Dundee and St. Andrews, and he said advisedly that the challenge was on purely technical grounds. Therefore this House ought to have no hesitation in interfering to bring to an end a most unfortunate state of matters and to a speedy conclusion a serious litigation which had been going on for long, and which might otherwise go on for years more.

Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE (Carnarvon Boroughs) trusted the Secretary to the Treasury would reconsider his decision with regard to the circulation of historical manuscript Reports. The expense of circulating a copy of each such Report to Members of Parliament could not be very great, and he hoped steps would be taken to secure this being done, so that the Reports might reach public libraries and similar institutions.

*Mr. HANBURY was in favour personally of distributing volumes of Blue-books of interest even more largely than they were among public libraries and similar institutions in large towns. He would point out that the calendaring of manuscripts and the issue of the calendars would go on for a very considerable period. It was by a mere accident that they happened to be the Reports of a Royal Commission, and that they were treated as ordinary Blue-books and distributed to Members of that House. They were valuable documents, which might very well be distributed among the constituencies, but he did not see why they should receive exceptional treatment which was not extended to any other volumes. There was really no reason whatever for putting the historical Reports upon the same footing as ordinary Blue-books. The latter were required for the ordinary business transactions of the House, but these historical documents stood on a totally different footing, and were entirely unconnected with the business of Parliament. He did not, therefore, see why the Treasury should be called upon to incur expense in connection with the distribution of such documents.

Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE observed that this was an exceedingly small matter for the Treasury to concede. The right hon. Gentleman said he was perfectly desirous of assisting Members to circulate these valuable documents among their constituents, but he wanted hon. Members to do this at their own expense. The way the right hon. Gentleman could give practical effect to his desire on that point was by allowing, at any rate, one copy of such Report to each hon. Member for circulation. He moved the reduction of the Vote by £100 in respect of the Historical Manuscripts Commission.

*Sir C. DILKE held that the Secretary to the Treasury should be supported in this matter. There was much less to be said for distributing the Reports of the Historical Manuscripts Commission free than for distributing free the Reports of "Hansard." The Reports of the Commission had nothing to do with the business of the House, but "Hansard" was part of the equipment of a Member of Parliament, and Members of Parliament who were not well off could not afford to pay for it.

*Mr. LECKY (Dublin University) said that one consideration that should not be forgotten was that these Reports had been distributed for many years, and their production and distribution was pretty nearly the only service the Government did for history. The House of Commons was not much addicted to history beyond a certain limit, the usual time limit being the earlier speeches of the Colonial Secretary or the Leader of the Opposition. [*Laughter, and* "Hear, hear!"] This, however, was a year of historical retrospect, and the Treasury should not signalise it by the great innovation of denying to the House one of the few privileges of the kind it possessed. ["Hear, hear!"]

Mr. BRYNMOR JONES (Swansea Boroughs) said that if the Committee divided he should support his hon. Friend the Member for the Carnarvon Boroughs. The expense to the Treasury in connection with the distribution of these reports was not the printing of a few additional copies for distribution among Members of the House. The real expense to the Treasury was the Commission itself. It could not materially add to the expense of the Commission to distribute 670 additional copies. It was absurd to say that they would cost ten shillings each. Let the Treasury not make itself more unpopular in historical and scholarly circles than it was at present.

Mr. T. LOUGH (Islington, S.) said he had long been in favour of the distribution of "Hansard" to Members free, and he hoped that on some future occasion he would have the support of the right hon. Member for the Forest of Dean. If the Secretary to the Treasury were not careful he would be known as an enemy to art and literature. He had already distinguished himself with regard to South Kensington in respects that had not commanded approval, and he regretted that he should object to the free distribution of these Reports.

Mr. DALZIEL said Parliament had to vote money for this and other Commissions, and its Members had a right to have Reports of the Commissions to see what they were doing and whether Parliament were getting value for its money. If the Report of one Commission were to be denied them they might as well be denied the Reports of all Commissions. Every Blue-book they sent to their constituents cost them 5s. or more, and the cost of sending Blue-books and Parliamentary Papers was governed by the number of institutions and constituents applying for them. Nothing like 670 additional copies would be required, and the cost would merely be that of paper.

Mr. LEONARD COURTNEY (Cornwall, Bodmin) opposed the Amendment, saying, that pleasant as was the privilege of studying the Reports of the Historical Manuscripts Commission, it was purely a privilege which they could not say they had a right to as Members of the Legislature. He contended that the Reports of the Commission were not in the same category as reports relating to the condition of different industries, populations, or public questions.

Mr. GIBSON BOWLES defended the Secretary to the Treasury as merely practising in office the economy in these matters which he advocated when he was in Opposition. The prices of the volumes issued by the Historical Manuscripts Commission were low, and, as they did not relate to proceedings that formed any part of the business of the House, there was no reason why Members who were interested in them should not buy them themselves. He commended his right hon. Friend for the course he had taken. It was strictly in accordance with the principles of economy which both of them had always preached when in Opposition. [*Laughter.*]

*Mr. HEDDERWICK (Wick Burghs) pointed out that the price of the last volume issued by the Commission was 2s. 6d. Therefore, even if every Member applied for a copy the total cost would be only £84. Every one must admire the spirit of economy which was beginning to show itself on the Treasury Bench, but it was somewhat belated, and was exhibited on a rather small scale. ["Hear, hear!"]

The Committee divided: Ayes, 81; Noes, 138.—(Division List, No. 239.)

*Mr. WEIR said he would have liked the right hon. Gentleman to be still more definite with regard to the item to which he had called attention. He would have liked the right hon. Gentleman to give a pledge that it would not appear on the Paper again. There were no more honest people in the world than the Highland Crofters, and he had the facts from them. These poor men were taken out at a time of year when they were unable to plough the land, and so lost a year, and food had to be provided for them during that time. An agent of the Colonisation Board encouraged them, and took them out a year too early. He hoped the Committee would have an intimation from the right hon. Gentleman that this expenditure would be reduced or abolished. If they did not get such an intimation, he would be under the necessity of moving the reduction of the Vote.

Mr. LOUGH desired to point out that the Congested Districts Board for Ireland was included in this Vote. Surely there was not a Temporary Commission? Then the last item was £7,500 for Commissions not specifically provided for. What were those Commissions? It was very extraordinary that out of a sum of £30,000 there should be so large an item as £7,500 without any explanation at all. There was also an item of £12,500 for other Departmental inquiries also unexplained. He would be glad to know whether it was not possible to prepare the Vote with greater care, so that every item included might be fully explained.

*Sir C. DILKE said that the Vote covered a great number of Temporary Commissions appointed merely for the purpose of delaying or preventing legislation. He especially referred to the Licensing Commission. He would like to ask when the Sugar Commission was likely to report.

*Mr. HANBURY said he was told that every effort was being made to enable the Report to be issued. With regard to the Congested Districts Board, it was a Commission to all intents and purposes, and he did not think it was at all unusual that Commissions of this character, even when they lasted as long as this one, should be treated as Temporary. With regard to the unexplained item of £7,500, to which the hon. Member for Islington had called attention, a margin was always allowed under this Vote to meet expenses of Commissions which were not otherwise provided for.

Original Question put, and agreed to.

5. £3,279, to complete the sum for Miscellaneous Expenses.

Dr. CLARK wished to point out that there was a great increase in the expenses under the item Lord Chamberlain's Department, namely, from £2,900 last year to £5,050. He would be glad to know the reason of this.

*Mr. HANBURY said he believed it was in connection with the Jubilee.

Dr. CLARK said that a note explained that it was required to meet the cost of preparing Orders of the Garter, Thistle, Distinguished Service Orders, and other similar matters. He always understood that the fees paid by the recipients of these Orders compensated for the cost.

*Mr. HANBURY: This is in connection with forthcoming Honours in connection with the Diamond Jubilee.

Dr. CLARK said there was a Scotch item which he had thought would disappear, namely, the salary of the Printer's Reader to the Bible Board of Scotland. He believed there was a pledge some years ago that the expenditure on this Board was to be abolished. He thought the Board ought to be abolished altogether. At any rate, the gentleman who acted as Clerk to the Board surely could not have very much to do, and might also do the work of the Reader. He would like to know why the Board was still going on?

*Mr. HANBURY suggested that the hon. Gentleman should raise the question on Report, as the Lord Advocate was not now in his place.

Dr. CLARK then referred to the practice of giving Queen's Plates to be run for in Ireland. A number of plates used to be voted for Great Britain, but the money was now devoted to a much better purpose by the Royal Commission on Horse-breeding. An Irish Commission had now been appointed, and he thought it would be wise to do in Ireland what had been done in Great Britain.

*Mr. HANBURY said provision was made in another Vote for money to be devoted to horse-breeding in Ireland.

Dr. CLARK said a Commission had been appointed in Ireland, and they would report. The change was made in Great Britain after the Commission had reported.

*Mr. HANBURY: Yes; but the Irish Commission has not yet reported, so the occasion has not arisen.

Vote agreed to.

Class II.

6. £60,672, to complete the sum for the Treasury and subordinate Departments.

Mr. GIBSON BOWLES said he proposed to call attention to a matter of the greatest importance. The Treasury was the guardian of the financial purity of the public service. It was the overseer or schoolmaster, as it were, of all the other Departments. If the smallest irregularity were committed by any Department it was the Treasury that always descended on it to have the matter put right. The charge he had to make against this watchdog of the public service was that it was itself habitually and shamelessly guilty of the very practice which it existed to prevent in other Departments. The Controller and Auditor General had told the Public Accounts Committee that there was nothing to prevent the Treasury from remitting sums which were due to the public, and which ought to be levied, and that such remissions need not ever be discovered. Among the remissions granted by the Treasury without authority were remissions of Income Tax and of Customs Duties, and there had been one astonishing case, at any rate, of remission of Death Duties. This was the remission of duty on cash and bonds for £213,273, belonging to the late Czar of Russia. When he died in November, 1894, these bonds and moneys were in the custody of the Bank of England, and under the Finance Act of 1894 the duty payable thereon at 6½ per cent. was £13,800. The question of liability was raised by the Russian Ambassador in this country, and the Commissioners of Inland Revenue reported to the Treasury that duty was payable. They said:—

> "The only instance which we have been able to find of a foreign Sovereign dying possessed of personal property in this country is that of his late Majesty Dom Luiz I. of Portugal, who died on the 19th October, 1889, and to whose estate administration was granted to Dom Antonio y D. Nazaret, as attorney of the present King of Portugal, on June 2, 1890. Probate duty at the rate then in force was paid upon the affidavit leading to that grant of administration. The Russian Bonds of which the late Emperor died possessed are securities transferable in this country, and the bonds themselves were here; consequently they are, in law, locally situated within the jurisdiction of the High Court of Justice in England, and no one is allowed to recover them without obtaining a grant of representation to the deceased Emperor. The affidavit to be made leading to this grant must accordingly be stamped to recover the bonds and the two sums of cash. The only person whose estate was, under the former law, free from probate duty was the reigning Sovereign of this country. That was because the King does not pay taxes to himself. The estate duty is subject to similar rules. All the Royal Family of England, except the Sovereign, were subject to probate duty, and will be subject to estate duty. A foreign Sovereign stands in this respect on no higher footing than a member of the English Royal Family."

Thus it appeared from the Commissioners' Report that the only precedent bearing upon the case showed the existence of liability, and it also appeared that if the claim had been insisted upon the money would have been paid without demur. But the Treasury, recognising that it had no power by law to remit the duty, sought about for a way of rendering evasion of payment possible. One of the persons responsible in this matter was the right hon. Member for West Monmouthshire. Sir E. Hamilton, a high permanent official of the Treasury, told the Committee of Public Accounts,—

> "Sir W. Harcourt (the then Chancellor of the Exchequer) admitted the force of the Russian Ambassador's contention"

—which was that the exaction of duty in respect of property belonging to a foreign Sovereign was hardly consistent with the rules governing international courtesy—

> "but it was not clear at the time how the difficulties could be surmounted. It then transpired that in the special circumstances the

> Bank, which had the custody of the bonds, was prepared to hand them over to the representatives of the late Czar without requiring a grant of administration to be presented, provided that the Treasury would take no exception to that course. Accordingly it was intimated to the Bank that, as far as the Treasury was concerned, the Bank was authorised to transfer to the present Emperor the property belonging to his late Imperial Majesty. Consequently no duty was paid or was payable in respect of the bonds."

The Treasury thus construed an Act of Parliament—as it was so fond of doing—its view being that if no grant of administration was taken out no duty would be payable. That was absolutely false law, and the course taken was an evasion of the law. It was surprising that the right hon. Member for West Monmouthshire should have been a party to so shabby and mean an expedient. He had, however, felt convinced all along that the right hon. Gentleman did not understand his own Act, and he supposed that the right hon. Gentleman had been misled. The Commissioners of Inland Revenue had said that nobody could take possession of this money except by a title founded upon probate or letters of administration, and the suggestion of the Treasury to the Bank was that it should commit what was an illegal act. It was a curious circumstance that there was no written record of this transaction at the Treasury. Everything was done secretly, and the communication to Sir A. Milner that he was not to levy the duty was verbal, as was also Sir A. Milner's communication on the subject to Sir W. Karslake. There was not a trace left in any paper or book of the Department connected with the remission of the duty. When the Committee came to inquire into the transaction, they found that not even the accounting officer who was responsible for, and presumably acquainted with, the whole of the accounts of the Department, had any knowledge of the transaction that had taken place with regard to these duties. The same observation applied to the sub-accounting officer and the Auditor and Controller General, and if it had not been for the existence of the Public Accounts Committee the transaction would have been buried in secrecy to the end of time. The Committee were probably aware that the Inland Revenue acted under the orders and directions of the Treasury in all it did in the collection of revenue. It was bound by Statute to obey the orders of the Treasury in what it did, but the conception of the kind of obedience which the Department held itself bound to render was to him a strange and new conception. When Sir William Karslake was being examined he put to the witness these questions:—

> "I will put this case to you: Supposing the Treasury instructed you not to take any steps to recover duty which was undoubtedly due from a private estate, would you consider yourself bound to follow out those orders?—Certainly. I think the section I have read would bind the Commissioners, and therefore would bind me.
>
> "Then you do hold that even unlawful orders should be obeyed?—I do not think it is for me to question whether they are lawful or unlawful."

It would thus be seen that the Treasury could get any commands obeyed which were issued to the Department. Let the Committee go one step further and convict the Treasury out of its own mouth as to the impropriety of its conduct. In 1882 the Treasury was considering the misdoings of the Accounting Officers among other persons, and it sent forth a solemn minute. It said that:—

> "Accounting officers will understand that if they are desired by their superior officers to order a payment which, under Act of Parliament, Order in Council, Queen's Warrant, Treasury Minute, or otherwise, they believe to be wrong, they must represent their objection, and the reason for it, to such superior officer in writing. If the order is then repeated in writing they must obey without further responsibility; but if the officer directing the payment is not the supreme chief of the Department they should ask to obtain the authority in writing of such chief before obeying. The responsibility is then transferred to the directing officer, who will he held personally liable."

Here then was the Comptroller of Legacy Duties, bound by Statute to collect the duties, directed not to collect them. Sir William Karslake's duty was to take his orders in writing; he did not do so; he took verbal orders; and if Sir William Karslake and Sir Alfred Milner had complied with the terms of the Treasury Minute, each would have had from the other an order in writing from the right hon. Member for West Monmouthshire (Sir W. Harcourt), and the right hon. Gentleman would have been held personally liable for the £13,800. [*Laughter.*]

But none of the proper steps laid down by the Treasury in a transaction of this kind had been taken, and the failure to take them was due to the action of the Treasury itself. It was the Treasury that authorised this thing to be done by verbal communication, and the responsibility rested with the authorities there. Why was this thing done? The reason given was that it was done in order to act according to the comity of nations with regard to a foreign sovereign. When he asked the Treasury official who gave this answer whether he understood what "comity of nations" was, the gentleman replied that he did not understand it. He then gave to the official the definition of Phillimore, that comity of nations "consists in the foreigner and the native being entitled to a like measure of justice," and he suggested that this was the proper meaning of comity, which after all meant courtesy. Comity would require, therefore, that the Czar and the Hereford washerwoman should be treated in the same way; but in this instance the one was treated in one way and the other in a wholly different way. But the plea of comity having disappeared, it was next suggested that the duties were irrecoverable. But he reminded the Committee that the Comptroller of Legacy Duties told the Committee that had the duties been insisted upon they would have been paid, and thus the issue of civil process could never have arisen. Under the Finance Act it could not have been a question of civil process, because the charge lay on the Treasury. Both the plea of comity, moreover, and the plea that the duties were irrecoverable failed when it was considered that only a few years before, in precisely similar circumstances, the duty was levied on the King of Portugal. The transaction was thus left in its naked proportions as a complete and inexcusable violation of the law perpetrated by order of the Treasury. What the final motive was he did not know. He had hoped that the late Chancellor of the Exchequer would have been present to tell the Committee; but so far, he could not understand what it was. He could easily understand that a Sovereign of this country who had power to do so before the Revolution—say a Plantagenet—might have excused from duty a poor relation; but in this case the relation was not poor; and there was no power, not even in the Sovereign, certainly not in the Treasury, to make the remission. Pascal said that the great casuist Escobar took the view that "if you saw a thief going to rob a poor man it was lawful to divert him from his purpose by pointing out a rich man whom he might rob instead." [*Laughter.*] But the modern casuist of West Monmouth, when he saw the tax collector ready to mulct a poor Czar of £14,000, diverted attention by pointing out that he might console himself by taking £5 from the Herefordshire washerwoman. He could see no authority and no justification for what had been done. It seemed to him to be absolutely necessary that some change should be made in the system under which the Treasury conducted its business. Remissions made in contravention of the law should cease once and for ever, and he believed that if they had not been made secretly and without the knowledge of the House of Commons they would have ceased long ago. Whenever the Treasury made any remission, he maintained that it should inform the Auditor and Comptroller General in order that the attention of the Public Accounts Committee should be called to the matter if it was thought fit, and the House of Commons should insist that every year a list should be presented of every remission, great or small, which the Treasury thought it desirable to make. ["Hear, hear!"] In his opinion no Department was to be trusted with the dispensing power over the laws; no Department ought to be enabled to issue either general or particular declarations of indulgence—to its friends, perhaps. Consider the openings to favouritism and to every kind of abuse this would give rise to; but, if it were done, then it should be done no longer in secret, but under conditions which would enable Parliament to judge of each remission made, and so to prevent the recurrence of any such abuses in future as he had ventured to describe.

Dr. CLARK said he thought there should be some declaration from the Treasury in reply to the serious charges made.

Mr. COHEN (Islington, E.) expressed surprise that no reply was forthcoming either from the Treasury Bench, or, what would perhaps be even more satisfactory, from some one on the front Opposition Bench, explaining the proceedings in question. There ought to be some assurance that it would not be possible for such a transaction to take place again in such a clandestine and secret manner. Differing from his hon. Friend, he held that a dispensing power must reside in the great Officers of State, but he contended that there should be furnished to the Public Accounts Committee and in a proper manner to the House a return showing any case in which taxation had been remitted.

*SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT (Monmouthshire, W.): I am sorry I was not here when the hon. Member for Lynn Regis brought this matter before the House. The hon. Member who spoke last has used the word "clandestine." I must protest against that word. There was nothing clandestine about the matter at all. The practice in the Treasury for time out of mind has been that in regard to Sovereigns and their representatives a relaxation is made in respect of duties of various kinds which are levied upon everyone else, and that without statutory authority. There was a celebrated case in the reign of William III., when the Custom House officers confiscated the riband of the St. Esprit of the French Ambassador; and there was an Act passed in the time of Queen Anne at the instance of Peter the Great, who demanded the immediate execution of all the officers who had been concerned in a transaction of a like sort. That was the origin of the statute of Anne which forbids process to be taken out against foreign Ambassadors, and, still more, against Sovereigns. It is perfectly true that, literally speaking, there is no statutory authority with reference to Customs or income tax or duties on Ambassadors' houses, and so on, for not levying the imposts, and the consequence is that Ambassadors, time out of mind, have had their tobacco, wines, and other articles free of duty, and they are passed and no questions are asked. When the Czar visited the Queen at Balmoral the other day, an absolutely "illegal and clandestine" operation took place. The Customs, even without the instruction of the Treasury, gave orders that the Emperor of Russia's luggage, containing possibly cigarettes and caravan tea, should be passed, and this violation of the statutes of the realm took place, and, I am afraid, in a "clandestine" manner. [*Laughter.*] That is really the state of things which has existed ever since Queen Anne, and ever since the celebrated Act, of which an illuminated copy was presented to Peter the Great, and the present Czar of Russia has derived an hereditary benefit from that protest of his ancestor 200 years ago. Now the enactment of the statute of Anne is that no process can be taken out for the recovery of moneys from foreign Sovereigns or their representatives, and when it was represented to me by the Russian Ambassador that there was this money, there was no process of law by which the duty could be levied, and there cannot be a process of law—

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: We were told by the Controller of Legacy Duties that if the duty had been insisted upon it would certainly have been paid.

*SIR W. HARCOURT: No; I beg pardon.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: He said so.

*SIR W. HARCOURT: The hon. Member has been wrongly informed. What might have been done was this—the money might have been impounded until the duty was paid. The hon. Member is wrong in supposing that the Committee have stated that some illegality has taken place. The Committee have not said anything of the kind. The Committee said that they were not called upon to formulate an opinion on the question of the propriety, in view of international comity, of securing the transfer, without payment of duty, of the property held by the Bank; the point taken by the Committee was whether the transaction should have been recorded and published. This was not a remission, because a remission, properly speaking, is the paying back of a duty which has been already paid, and the Treasury Minute of 1883, which is referred to in the Report of the Committee, deals with remissions of that character. You might lay on the Table of Parliament, if you chose, the details of those transactions. You might lay on the Table of Parliament a statement of how many cigars in the course of the year the Spanish Ambassador and his suite smoked, and how many gallons of wine each Ambassador or Minister has consumed. I do not know that that would add to the grace of the comity, because in Committee of Supply you might discuss whether the Spanish Ambassador smoked too much, or whether the French Ambassador had too much claret and champagne. [*Laughter.*] That, I have no doubt, is the reason why the practice which the hon. Member has condemned has been pursued. If you are going in future to lay on the Table of Parliament a return of such things, it may be a very strict financial proceeding, but it would destroy the comity of the transaction; and, of course, hereafter you must examine the Czar's luggage when he comes over in order that you may make a return to Parliament of what it contains. That is not my view of the comity of nations. Now, in the case of this particular remission, what happened was this. The Bank of England, having this money in their hands, had power perfectly legally to hand it over to the Emperor of Russia, and they might have done so at their own risk without letters of administration. I do not speak positively upon this, but the information I have is that the Emperor could not take out letters of administration, for he becomes possessed of the property of the late Emperor, whom he succeeds, immediately. Therefore it was his property without letters of administration. Consequently what was really done by the Treasury was to inform the Bank that if they chose to do what they did perfectly legally the Treasury would not object. That is the whole history of the matter, and when it was said that this was done clandestinely, I do not know how the hon. Member would desire that it should have been revealed to the House. The Treasury simply followed in this case the practice they always follow. I hope I have made a frank statement to the House. [*Cheers.*] I do not desire that any responsibility should rest upon the Treasury or upon any of the officials. The responsibility was mine. I regarded it as an act of State—the dealing of one Sovereign State with another; and I think that the proceeding was justifiable and proper under the circumstances. [*Cheers.*] That is not really disputed by the Committee of Public Accounts. They remark, not on the propriety of the transaction itself, but on the necessity for further publicity in these matters. That does not rest with me. But it seems to me that when you are doing an act of grace and favour you do not want to publish it to all the world. ["Hear, hear!"] There is a Latin epigram which says, "A man conferred a favour upon me, and published it to all the world, and therefore we are quits." These are never matters of great moment or serious consequence; and if you are to keep the character of this country for observing a comity which has existed for many generations, I do not think it is desirable to depart from the practice which has hitherto been pursued. ["Hear, hear!"] As to the other case quoted of the King of Portugal, there was no claim for the extension of this comity. But in this case the claim was made and was admitted. [*Cheers.*]

MR. GIBSON BOWLES said that the right hon. Gentleman was mistaken in supposing that the Public Accounts Committee did not report the thing done as unlawful. They said,—

"Your Committee are of opinion that when the Treasury decided to countenance what was not only 'extra-statutory' but actually against the law—"

*SIR W. HARCOURT: Of course. Every cask of wine and every box of cigars for the Ambassador which is passed is against the law in that sense. That is to say, the law orders that the duty shall be collected, and it is not collected.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: But the right hon. Gentleman said that the Committee had not reported that this was against the law.

*SIR W. HARCOURT: They state that it is against the law, but they say that they "are not called upon to form an opinion on the question of propriety in view of international comity." They recognise the comity, though it is not sanctioned by statute.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES said that no question of comity was raised with regard to the estate of the King of Portugal, on which duty was paid. He could not understand that the comity depended upon an application being made for its extension. If the payment of the duty was against comity, and it was tendered, it ought to have been refused. It was the fact that this remission in the case of the Czar was done secretly, instead of being done in writing, and the direction of the right hon. Gentleman being given directly. From the moment the decision was taken to excuse the duty not a word in writing passed, and there was nothing from which the Auditor General could have discovered the transaction.

*Sir W. HARCOURT: I have pointed out that in the case of the Czar's visit to Balmoral the Treasury was not consulted. You may call that clandestine, if you like. The order was simply sent down. ["Hear, hear!"]

Mr. GIBSON BOWLES said that he did not attach the greatest blame to the right hon. Gentleman, but to the officials of the Treasury who undertook to construe the Act of 1894. In declaring that it was unnecessary to take out letters of administration, and, therefore, that no duty was payable, they misled the right hon. Gentleman. The Report of the Inland Revenue to the Treasury was that no one could be allowed to recover the property without taking out letters of administration.

*Sir W. HARCOURT: The whole of the responsibility is mine.

Mr. GIBSON BOWLES insisted that the right hon. Gentleman had been ill-advised, and hoped that in future these remissions would be laid before Parliament.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER (Sir Michael Hicks Beach, Bristol, W.): I do not think that the Committee will desire to pursue the particular case of non-exaction of duty from the Czar of Russia. ["Hear, hear!"] The right hon. Gentleman has made a fair and plain statement of the case; and I think that in all probability the country obtained a greater advantage from the act of courtesy than it would have gained from the exaction of the duty. [*Cheers.*] Some members of the Committee perhaps desire that we should give some expression of our views with respect to the general recommendations of the Public Accounts Committee. I quite agree with the right hon. Gentleman opposite as to the impossibility of laying before Parliament a statement of the remissions of duties to Ambassadors or foreign Sovereigns in cases where it has been the rule for generations past that such remissions should be made. Further, I will say that to make a remission to a foreign Sovereign in some exceptional case, and then bring it before Parliament for discussion, might very possibly result in detracting greatly from the grace and courtesy of such remission. [*Cheers.*] But what Parliament may be jealous of is the action of the Executive—whether the Treasury, the Inland Revenue, or the Customs—not in regard to foreign Sovereigns or Ambassadors, but in regard to Her Majesty's own subjects. ["Hear, hear!"] I entirely accept, as far as Her Majesty's present Government are concerned, the view of the Committee that where the action of the Treasury, or the Inland Revenue, or the Customs, in these matters with regard to Her Majesty's subjects involves some new question of principle, the matter should be frankly submitted to the Comptroller and Auditor General, to be reported by him, if he so desires, to the House of Commons. ["Hear, hear!"] That is only in accordance with the old Treasury Minute. But the Committee must not carry that principle too far. Every day, it is not perhaps too much to say, cases of trifling amount occur in the ordinary administration of the Customs and the Inland Revenue—cases in which some claim for duty is made and is not pressed, or perhaps some penalty is waived. In some sense these are remissions. Are they to be reported to the Comptroller and Auditor General? I do not think that it would be the view of the Committee on Public Accounts that matters of that sort should be brought unnecessarily before the notice of Parliament or of the Comptroller and Auditor General. But I fully accept the view that where any remission is made by the Treasury or a subordinate Department involving any new principle or any important amount, that such remission should be submitted to the Comptroller and Auditor General.

*Mr. WEIR, who was received with cries of "Oh!" asked whether the Secretary to the Treasury intended to continue his dual office as representative of the Treasury and of the Post Office? The right hon. Gentleman's salary of £2,000 was too large while he was dividing his time between the two Departments. [*Laughter.*] Of course, if the right hon. Gentleman were devoting eight or ten hours a day to the work of one Department only the salary might not be excessive. [*Laughter.*] It was too great a strain on any one man to fill two offices, and he thought they were entitled to ask the right hon. Gentleman to stick to the duties of Financial Secretary and not to take up the other duties. He did not know whether the right hon. Gentleman would give him any information as to what his intentions were. [*Laughter.*] He also desired to call attention to the salary of the non-resident British director of the Suez Canal. According to the Vote, he received £800 this year, as against £500 last year, and, in addition, he received £950 as late Deputy-Master of the Mint. A footnote stated that this rate of salary would be reconsidered on a vacancy. Did that mean that the office was to be abolished, or that the salary was to be reduced? He hoped some satisfactory explanation might be given of this matter.

Dr. CLARK congratulated the Treasury on the course they had taken in regard to this matter of the Suez Canal directors. Hitherto, they had always "sweated" these unfortunate directors, and had themselves appropriated the fees they got from the Canal. Now they were paying the directors a sum equivalent to what they got from the Canal.

*Mr. HANBURY said the explanation given by the hon. Member for Caithness was the true one.

Dr. TANNER (Cork Co., Mid.) drew attention to the matter of the Irish Teachers' Pension Fund, and asked that something should be done in the matter of the deficiency which existed.

*The CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS: Order, order! The general question with regard to the Teachers' Pension Fund does not arise on this Vote. This Vote relates solely to the office.

Dr. TANNER said he did not wish to press the matter unduly, but he submitted to the right hon. Gentleman that something should be done.

*Mr. HANBURY assured the hon. Member that a large sum was going to be voted to make up the deficiency in the Teachers' Pension Fund.

Dr. TANNER asked when the deficiency was made known.

*Mr. HANBURY said the deficiency was made known, he thought, some three or four years ago. To a large extent it arose through some actuarial miscalculations. The deficiency, no doubt, did represent a very large sum, to which the Government were going to contribute several hundreds of thousands of pounds.

Dr. CLARK referred to the scale of fees they were paying in England, Ireland, and Scotland. On this Vote they had got three Exchequers, and, as usual, the Irish sum was an extravagant one. Take the principal clerks in three offices. In London and in Dublin these officials began at £700 a year and went on increasing to £800 a year. He could understand that in London the official might be paid a little more than they paid in the other capitals, but he could not understand why the chief clerk in Edinburgh should begin at only £500 a year, increasing to £600, while the same official in Dublin began at £700 and went on to £800. He thought that at any rate the Edinburgh official ought to be paid an equal amount to the Dublin official. He thought the Treasury ought to see the injustice of the present arrangement. They had been able to level up, to a certain extent, the salaries of the Lord Advocate, the Scotch Solicitor General, and the Scotch Judges, and now they had got to level up the others as well, or give some decent reason for the course they had pursued. This was a national grievance, for every Department in Scotland was underpaid. He seriously objected to having the Scotch Civil Servants in every Department underpaid compared with the Irish and English servants, and getting no compensation for the disparity. It was only fair that the Treasury should give Scotland this money in a certain sum as the Chancellor of the Exchequer did in 1888. It was a most beneficial Measure passed by the present First Lord of the Admiralty when, in lieu of grants he substituted a share of the taxes. He hoped the Treasury would do something in the matter he had referred to.

*Mr. HENRY KIMBER (Wandsworth) desired to call attention to two classes of Civil Servants humbler than those the hon. Member for Caithness had referred to, who did not revel in salaries of £500 or £600 a year. One of these was the class of second division clerks who received their appointments under the terms recommended by the Royal Commission as distinguished from those appointed under the Playfair Commission scheme. These clerks, he was told on good authority, had much lower pay. No doubt the State was entitled to obtain its servants on the most reasonable terms, provided that those terms were not so low that for them good service could not be rendered. On the terms of their contract these clerks had technically no right to complain, but he would ask the Secretary to the Treasury to examine the grievances of these men, and if it should be found that some of the State servants received remuneration so small that without private means they could not fulfil their duty, or without using their spare hours for extra service, thus rendering their service to the State less valuable, would it not be worth while to offer remuneration that would secure their entire service? In addition to pay there was the question of holidays. For five years after they entered the Service they only had 14 days' leave in the year, besides Christmas Day and the usual public holidays, and in these days of stress and strain this was not sufficient. He hoped if now the larger question of the pay of the Services could not be raised, yet the Secretary to the Treasury would in this appropriate Jubilee year consider whether something could be done for this deserving class of public servants. Another humble class of Civil Servants were the "abstractors," of whom there were a large number in the various Departments. The increment of their pay was at the rate of £2 10s. per annum, the lowest rate of any class of Civil Servants, and after many years they arrived at the maximum of a little over £100. Boy messengers and boy copyists received a larger increment, to the extent of half as much again, and in some cases twice as much. He hoped a promise would be given that these grievances should be considered.

*Mr. HANBURY said the Ridley Commission dealt with the whole question of Civil Service establishments, but he did not think his hon. Friend was correct in saying that the Ridley Commission recommended lower salaries than existed under the Playfair scheme. No doubt they started from a lower minimum, but during the whole of his years of service, supposing a man served after 60, as many men did, he would receive more in salary than a clerk under the Playfair scheme. While salaries were lower in the early years of service, when they were not so much wanted, higher salaries were paid as men advanced in position in the service. There was great desire to enter the second division, and he thought the Ridley Commission had acted wisely in establishing the new scale. As to holidays, it was true that until they had served five years these clerks only received 14 days at one time, but there were public holidays to the number of about 7 in the year, and in addition, every alternate Saturday, and in some Departments every Saturday was a half holiday. These regulations were framed on the suggestions of the Ridley Commission, which went into the whole question. On the whole they had worked well. There were a good number of applicants for the second division, and he believed those in the Service were thoroughly satisfied. As to the class of "abstractors," his hon. Friend was not quite right in his facts. The maximum pay was not limited to £100, it extended to £150. What was the position of these "abstractors"? Under the recommendations of the Ridley Commission this class of copyists were to be done away with without compensation. The Treasury took a more lenient view, and selecting a number of the best men, put them in a better position than they had ever held before. Up to that time the men had been employed at 10d. an hour. They were not in any way on the permanent establishment, and were not entitled to a pension. A new class of assistant clerks was appointed, and these were allowed to enter the Service at the salaries they were receiving as copyists, with the addition of certain bonuses rising to £150. His hon. Friend had compared the increment they received with that of boy copyists and boy messengers, but it was not a fair comparison. Boy messengers were dismissed when they ceased to be boys, and boy copyists started at a much lower initial salary. The hon. Member for Caithness made a comparison of the salaries paid in Scotland and Ireland; but so far as he had been able to study these matters he was inclined to think that in many instances the difference arose from salaries in Ireland being too high, not those in Scotland too low.

DR. CLARK reminded the right hon. Gentleman that time after time there had been memorials and deputations from Scottish Civil Servants, complaining that they were paid so much lower salaries.

*MR. HANBURY said, of course, the hon. Member knew the general principle upon which salaries were apportioned. No doubt they were calculated on the cost of living in the different countries. But he would promise to look into the matter and see if the salaries were duly proportioned.

MR. PERCY THORNTON (Clapham) said he was responsible in 1894 for a Motion for the reduction of the Home Office Vote in reference to the position of junior clerks, and he recalled the fact that on that occasion the then Under Secretary (Mr. G. Russell) expressed the opinion that a holiday of 14 days was totally inadequate for junior clerks. An extra week was almost promised by the late Government, and it might be appropriately granted in this Jubilee year.

Vote agreed to.

7. £83,566, to complete the sum for the Home Office.

*SIR C. DILKE said there were one or two remarks he had to make upon this Vote. In the first place he would ask the Secretary of State to look into the condition of one of the burial grounds under his authority, which was such as to constitute a grave public scandal. The matter concerned both the Home Office and the Treasury. It was the case of the Brompton cemetery. It concerned both the Treasury and the Home Office, because the Treasury received the fees for interments, and the Home Office had statutory power to act if the ground was unfit to be used for burials any longer. The case had been frequently mentioned in the House, but instead of getting better things got worse. In private cemeteries interments within 100 yards of dwelling houses could be forbidden by the Home Office, but at Brompton interments were made right under the windows of houses in a crowded neighbourhood. Such an intra-mural cemetery afforded a flagrant example of all the evils which the Statute administered by the Home Office was intended to prevent, and the scandal was all the greater because of the fact that the country was making money out of it. ["Hear, hear!"] The other matter with which he wished to deal at a little greater length concerned the administration of the Factory laws by the Home Secretary. As he should have one or two criticisms to offer, he would say that those criticisms were all on side points. Generally speaking, he had to thank the right hon. Gentleman for, and to congratulate him upon his administration of his office. He thought he had admirably carried on the traditions of his predecessor, and had made no changes in the general conduct of the office. There had been a continuity of policy in regard to factory and mine inspection, and all other Departments, which was worthy of admiration, and if he said one or two words by way of criticism on a few points of detail, he did not wish to be understood as making any sort of attack on the general administration. ["Hear, hear!"] He wished to point out that in one or two directions there had been a notable tendency to vary what seemed to be the law by a sort of private arrangement between the Home Office and certain great firms. Generally speaking the firms concerned were firms which did a large amount of contract work for various Government Departments, and he could not but think that in some cases the influence of other Departments had been brought to bear—probably without the knowledge of the Home Secretary—upon some of the officials of his Department. It had been represented, perhaps, as being important for the Army or the Navy, or for reasons connected with other Departments, that certain firms should have their work facilitated by occasional relaxation of the law. There seemed to have been instances of this in the cases of the great firm of McCorquodale, and certain firms which contracted with the Government for the supply of tinned meat and tinned provisions. In the stationery works of Messrs. McCorquodale, at Newton-le-Willows, Lancashire, there was a large department called the "stores" department. Many examples had been referred to in that House, some in the last Parliament, of the difficulties in administering the Factory Laws caused by the inability of any one to draw a very strict line between what were warehouses and what were factories. They were familiar with the difficulties in this connection with regard to the bottling of beer and the printing of newspapers and other matters. This was a case of the kind. There was a large department at McCorquodale's called "stores," in which work was done which appeared to him plainly to bring that portion of their works within the definition of "factories" in the Factory Acts. As a matter of fact the hours of work in that large department were not the hours prescribed by the Factory laws. Sixty or seventy hours a week had been done by young persons, and in some cases children, and overtime had been worked on more than the statutory number of occasions, namely, 30 days. It was admitted, he thought, that the departments were not brought under any regulation with regard to hours. He believed it was understood in the Home Office that these "stores" departments were not under the Factory Acts, and therefore were not subject to regulations as to hours. But there was in Messrs. McCorquodale's works another department called the "label" department, employing a large number of people, which was admitted to be under the Factory Acts, the work done in which appeared to him to be indistinguishable on any principle from the work carried on in the "stores." What he had to complain of was that the Home Office must be aware that these portions of the works were on the dividing line between factories and warehouses, because he understood that an arrangement had been come to, a sort of private arrangement outside the Factory Acts, that not more than a certain number of hours were to be worked in future in those departments. That seemed to show that there was a doubt in the minds of the Home Office whether or not these works did come within the Factory Acts; and he was bound to say that he thought these arrangements with regard to hours outside the Act most unsatisfactory. He should not have attached much importance to this case if it stood by itself. But what had occurred with regard to the fishing industry went to show that there was a tendency somewhere in the Home Office to assume to vary the provisions of the law. In the case of the fishing industry the Factory Acts contained a special exception with regard to the gutting of fish on its arrival by boat; but the exception did not apply to the process of tinning or preserving fish. There were great works at the East End of London which did an immense amount of work for the Government. A great deal of fish was tinned which did not come to London by boat at all, but which came by train. These works undoubtedly came under the ordinary factory laws. Yet the Home Office for some time past had refrained from enforcing the law as against them. Questions were put in the House which induced the statement that a private Member was bringing in a Bill on the question, and that, pending legislation, there was to be some arrangement for holding over the cases. He submitted that a private Member's Bill, which had not the remotest chance of becoming law, was not sufficient ground for the Home Office suspending action on the existing law. He believed that several cases had been held over, and no prosecution had been carried through because of some suggested legislation. It appeared to him, as he had said, that these arrangements were most undesirable. The words of the law were perfectly plain. The exception distinctly referred to industries dependent on the arrival of fish by boats, and the language was so clear that it could not possibly apply generally to the tinning and preserving industry at large, and the law ought to be allowed to take its course, and the restrictions as to hours should be applied in the usual way. This was a case of some importance, because a large number and an increasing number of people were employed in these industries, which were working largely for the Government under contract. It was not a matter of the rate of wages paid, because the rates of wages were satisfactory, and in some cases high. But it was a question of the hours of work, which in this fish industry were very cruel hours. Women were employed, some of them all day on Sunday, and the hours were very long; yet the whole of these fish tinning places were treated as outside the provisions of the Factory Acts. To refrain from enforcing the law seemed to him to be a great mistake, entailing serious consequences to a large number of workers. ["Hear, hear!"] He would not press the matter any further, but would ask the Home Secretary to inquire into the facts he had mentioned in the case of the McCorquodale works; and with regard to the fish tinning industry he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would be able to assure the House that he intended to allow the law to take its course in future. He wished to conclude, as he had begun, by expressing his warm sympathy with the general administration of the right hon. Gentleman, and his conviction that in the greater portion of his administration he had been guided by the principles which most of those on his (the speaker's) side of the House wished to see carried out. ["Hear, hear!"]

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.) wished to draw attention to a matter which was a grievance of some importance to some 15,000 men, hundreds of whom he had the honour to represent. In order to make the matter clear to the Committee, he was compelled to traverse old ground, which he did very reluctantly. The constables of the Metropolitan Police force had laboured for a number of years under the disadvantage of being supplied with contract boots. Some years ago he drew attention to this fact, and the Government of the day declared that there was no grievance of the kind. But he proved that the grievance existed, inasmuch as these boots, for which the Government paid 30s. a pair, would not realise in the open market when new one half that value; and he showed that other boots, namely, boots supplied to the troops, and which cost a very much smaller figure, were sold in open market for two-thirds of their value. The Government then gave way on the point that there was no grievance; but they then declared that it would be impossible to carry out his suggestion that the men should receive a boot money allowance instead of contract boots.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS said the question should be raised on the Police Vote; he did not think it could be raised on the Home Office Vote.

CAPTAIN NORTON respectfully submitted that when he moved on a previous occasion, he dealt with it on this Vote.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS: I am not aware of that. I am aware that the matter was dealt with on the Police Vote on a former occasion, and that was the proper place to deal with it.

CAPTAIN NORTON: I assure you that I did deal with it on this Vote, as the right hon. Gentleman on the Front Bench (Mr. Asquith) will allow, for I moved that his salary be reduced on that occasion.

MR. ASQUITH: I am sorry I did not object on that occasion. [*Laughter.*]

CAPTAIN NORTON: I took opinion at the Table as to which Vote I should bring the matter forward upon, and it was suggested that this was the proper Vote.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS: I must follow the precedent I set myself when I allowed the question to be raised on the Police Vote. I must hold, therefore, that this is not the proper place to raise it.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY, Lancashire, Blackpool) said that perhaps the Chairman would permit him to say that the Question just referred to by the hon. Member for Newington was raised this Session by the noble Lord the Member for Greenwich upon the Police Vote. What had been done was intended to be for the advantage of the men, who, according to his information, wished to have a money instead of a boot allowance. He was much indebted to the right hon. Baronet the Member for the Forest of Dean for what he had said about the administration of the Factory Acts. He believed there ought to be continuity in the administration of such important Acts, and he was glad to think he had achieved some small measure of success in the opinion of the right hon. Gentleman. The circumstances of the Brompton Cemetery had not been brought to his notice, but he would inquire into them. The right hon. Baronet seemed to think there had been some influence at work which had induced the Home Office to relax the administration of the Factory Acts with regard to certain establishments. He was not aware of anything of the kind, and certainly he, personally, had never been called upon to decide whether any portion of McCorquodale's works was more properly a warehouse or a factory. The right hon. Baronet illustrated his point by what had been done with reference to some of the fish-curing industries. Directly he entered office his attention was called to what appeared to him to be a slip in the language of the Factory Act of 1878, and a Bill was introduced last Session for the purpose of amending the Act. The workers of the trade, employers as well as employed, have expressed the desire that there should be some slight amendment of the law which would make it clear that they may contiuue to work certain overtime in cases where it is necessary.

*SIR C. DILKE remarked that what he had said he had said at the wish of the Trade Councils of Grimsby and Aberdeen, who represented a very considerable industry, and they were not at all in favour of any relaxation.

*SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY: said he had not had a single representation made to him except in favour of retaining the relaxation which had always been allowed. He did not understand that any harm had been done, but he would look into the matter.

*MR. WEIR trusted that the Home Secretary would, through his inspectors, see that cruelty was not inflicted upon dumb animals by means of vivisection experiments. He quoted from a letter written by a well-known medical officer, Mr. Edward Berdol, a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, etc., Tynemouth House, Victoria Park Gate. That gentleman wrote under date June 10, 1897,—

> "Certificate A is special for experiments without anæsthetics, and although it is never allowed except for inoculation and similar trivial operation, the licensee does not allow himself to be baulked by such obstacles. He proceeds simply and effectually in the following manner: He desires, let us say, to bore holes in a dog's skull, to tear open the chest and disclose and experiment upon the heart. He gives a whiff of chloroform, enough to swear by, but not enough to interfere with the results of his research. He next gives a little morphia, which he has lately taken to call an anæsthetic. Thus Messrs. Bayliss and Hill in the *Journal of Physiology* (Vol. xviii. p. 357) say: 'Throughout the experiments morphia was the anæsthetic used.' Everybody knew that morphia was not an anæsthetic at all, but merely a stupefier (nobody would have a tooth extracted under morphia when he could get nitrous oxide gas). Before the preliminary stupefaction had passed off, curare was given, and then no noise, no biting, no scratching, no movements followed; nobody but the experimenter could tell that the creature was not really anæsthetised; and then the vivisector set to work, tearing away bones and muscles, cutting and stimulating nerves, and doing his work without fear of Home Secretary or anyone else. He could swear he had used anæsthetics, and as the animal had no power to express any pain, although suffering unutterable and unimaginable torments, his torturer could go on with his work for six hours and 12 minutes under curare, as was done in the new Museum, Cambridge, as recorded in detail in the *Journal of Physiology*, Vol. xv.; pp. 1—89, 1893."

MR. REGINALD McKENNA (Monmouthshire, N.) admitted that it was very difficult to accurately define a workshop, but contended the reply the right hon. Gentleman gave him earlier in the Session in respect to places where newspapers were folded and beer bottled was not quite satisfactory. He noticed that the superintendent-inspectorship in the women's department was vacant. Perhaps the Home Secretary would inform the Committee whether it was intended to appoint a new female factory inspector, and, if so, whether it was intended to appoint one of the present inspectors as superintendent. With regard to the question raised by the right hon. Baronet the Member for the Forest of Dean, it appeared to him most undesirable for a Government Department to enter into any private arrangement with any private firms.

*Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY: There has been no arrangement whatever.

Mr. McKENNA understood there was an arrangement that the firms should carry on their business in a particular way.

*Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY: There was no arrangement at all.

Mr. McKENNA said that in that case he would not pursue the subject.

*Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY remarked that, with regard to the Question put to him by the hon. Member for North Monmouth as to the definition of a workshop, he could not add anything to the answers he had already given, and which were founded on the best advice that could be supplied him at the Home Office. With respect to the vacancy which had occurred on the staff of the factory inspectorate, they had lost a very valuable public servant by the retirement of the present lady superintendent-inspector. ["Hear, hear!"] He was now engaged in going through a formidable list of the names of ladies who were desirous of becoming inspectors. His present intention was not to appoint a superintendent-inspector, but there were two or three points he was considering with the chief Inspector before deciding finally whether there should be a superintendent-inspector or five inspectors of the same grade. He proposed for the present to fill up the vacancy by the appointment of an ordinary inspector. With reference to the allegation as to cruelty in connection with vivisection, he could not believe that the statements which the hon. Member opposite had quoted from a letter were in any degree accurate. On the contrary, he believed they were entirely inaccurate, and he should be extremely sorry to think that such a thing as had been suggested was possible. If the hon. Gentleman would be good enough to let him have the statement of his correspondents he would take care to examine very closely into the truth of the matter. During the course of the last year or two he had had only one or two complaints as to the way the operations were carried on, and as to alleged cruelty and irregularity under the Act. Those charges, however, were not substantiated in any case, and he had reason to believe that the Act was humanely and properly administered; that the two inspectors—one in the south and one in the north—were thoroughly up to their work; that they did pay surprise visits; and that they took every means to secure the efficient carrying out of the Act. ["Hear, hear!"]

Vote agreed to.

5. £3,279, to complete the sum for Miscellaneous Expenses.—Agreed to.

Class II.

6. £60,672, to complete the sum for Treasury and Subordinate Departments.—Agreed to.

7. £83,566, to complete the sum for Home Office.—Agreed to.

8. £40,810, to complete the sum for Exchequer and Audit Department.—Agreed to.

9. £5,407, to complete the sum for Friendly Societies Registry.—Agreed to.

10. £9,725, to complete the sum for Lunacy Commission, England.—Agreed to.

11. £42, to complete the sum for the Mint, including Coinage.—Agreed to.

12. £9,138, to complete the sum for National Debt Office.—Agreed to.

13. £14,464, to complete the sum for Public Record Office.—Agreed to.

14. £4,591, to complete the sum for Public Works Loan Commission.—Agreed to.

15. £27,167, to complete the sum for Registrar General's Office, England.—Agreed to.

Resolutions to be reported upon Monday next; Committee to sit again upon Monday next.

SUPPLY [17TH JUNE].

Resolutions reported.

CIVIL SERVICES ESTIMATES, 1897-8.

CLASS IV.

1. "That a sum, not exceeding £4,306,910, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1898, for Public Education in England and Wales, including expenses of the Education Office in London."

Resolution agreed to.

2. "That a sum, not exceeding £7,434, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1898, for the salaries and expenses of the National Gallery, including a grant in aid for the purchase of pictures."

DR. CLARK said the Secretary of the Treasury had postponed to that stage some explanation of the increase in this Vote. The increase was considerable, and in one particular it was an increase in salaries. He remembered the Secretary of the Treasury being very strong against such increases. Now for the first time there was an additional extra allowance to a clerk of £100 a year.

*MR. HANBURY said he had generally opposed personal allowance, but this was an exceptional case. They had to feel their way as to the salaries in the Department, and under the circumstances there was no other course to be pursued than the one adopted. The Sunday opening had led to increased expenditure, and it was the wish of the House that no increase or pressure of any kind should be brought to bear on the ordinary attendants and servants in regard to work on Sundays. He had, however, in some instances, representations from the attendants that they wished to do the extra work themselves, and they were allowed to do it.

Resolution agreed to.

3. "That a sum, not exceeding £3,613, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1898, for the salaries and expenses of the National Portrait Gallery, including a grant in aid for the purchase of portraits."

4. "That a sum, not exceeding £5, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1898, for the expenses of the University of London."

Resolutions agreed to.

WAYS AND MEANS.

Committee deferred till Monday next.

Whereupon Motion made, and Question, "That this House do now adjourn,"—(*Mr. Hanbury*)—put, and agreed to.

House Adjourned at Ten Minutes before Eight o'Clock till Monday next.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Monday, 21st June 1897.

REVIEW AT ALDERSHOT.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (The Marquess of LANSDOWNE) said he desired to state the arrangements under which their Lordships might be present on the occasion of the review at Aldershot on the 1st of July. Every Member of their Lordships' House would be entitled to a free place in the stands which would be erected close to the saluting point. Special trains would be provided to and from London and transport to and from Farnborough Station at a cost for each ticket of £1. The free tickets for the stands and the train tickets would not be transferable. Members of the House who might desire to obtain a second ticket could have one on payment of 15s. in addition to the charge of £1 for transport. Applications should be made to the Lord Chancellor's private secretary not later than Friday evening next, after which no applications could be entertained. He should also state that about 4,000 seats had been erected for sale to the general public at prices from 30s. to 15s. each. Applications for the purchase of tickets for these seats should be addressed to the General Officer Commanding at Aldershot.

QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE

ADDRESS TO HER MAJESTY.

THE PRIME MINISTER (The Marquess of SALISBURY), who on rising was received with cheers, said: My Lords,—I rise to move that an humble Address be presented by this House to Her Majesty on the occasion of the auspicious celebration of the 60th year of Her Majesty's reign. The Address which I propose that the House shall present is as follows:—

"That an humble Address be presented to Her Majesty, to congratulate Her Majesty on the auspicious completion of the 60th year of her happy reign, and to assure Her Majesty that this House profoundly shares the great joy with which her people celebrate the longest, the most prosperous, and the most illustrious reign in their history, joining with them in praying earnestly for the continuance during many years of Her Majesty's life and health."

[*Cheers.*] My Lords, the precedents are in favour of very short speeches on the occasions of addresses, or joyful occasions, from this House to the Throne, and I shall not depart from so good a precedent. And, indeed, it would perplex me to say anything that should not have the appearance of simple iteration if I were to attempt to enlarge upon the subject which has been before the minds of the people of this country for so many months. It is, undoubtedly, a great as well as a unique occasion. Other reigns have been nearly as long, but no reign has maintained an unbroken succession of prosperous fortune and able government, and there is no reign which the Sovereign has brought to a conclusion with a higher tribute of loyalty and affection and devotion from her subjects than that with which the reign commenced. It is not only a long reign, a great reign, but it is an epoch in the history of our time and our race. It is a period in which changes of mighty import have commenced and have proceeded, bearing in them the seeds of vast developments for the greatness and happiness of our race. During this period Nature has lent new powers to men and nations, all parts of the globe have been brought more closely together, for evil or for good; under the influence of these natural aids and of the steady progress in enlightenment and knowledge which has been made by European nations, there has been a continuous advance in the frontiers of this Empire, so that many races that were formerly alien to it have been brought under its influence, many who were formerly within its boundaries have been made to feel, in some degree for the first time, the full benefits of its civilisation and its educating influence. ["Hear, hear!"] My Lords, it has also been a period of great political change. The impulse of democracy, which began in another century in other lands, has made itself felt fully in our time, and vast changes in the centre of power and the incidence of responsibility have been made almost imperceptibly without any disturbance or hindrance in the progress of the prosperous development of the nation. These things have been done during the reign of the Queen, during the reign of a Princess who began in early youth with little guidance, scarcely with any guidance except that of the great and good man whom she chose for her partner; and under her guidance, in spite of the magnitude of the events and the great changes that have affected all human beings, and this nation especially, we have passed through the period in prosperity and peace, and at the end of it the nation is infinitely more powerful, more united, and richer than it was at the beginning, and, above all, more knit together in their love and admiration for the Sovereign under whose care and auspices this great development has taken place. [*Cheers.*] When I was young it was the fashion to treat the sovereignty of the Queen as nominal, and the share which she took in public business as unreal. I hear less of that language now —["hear, hear!"]—and I speak in an Assembly where many could join with me in saying that no one could so describe the working of our institutions without an entire ignorance of the real method of their operation. The powers of the Sovereign are great; the responsibilities are enormous. That we have passed through a period of so much trial, and arrived at the height of so much greatness, is largely due to the moderating, the self-controlling, influence of the Queen, from whom, legally, all power flows. [*Cheers.*] We have to express on this singular occasion our deep thankfulness for the blessing that has been vouchsafed to us in this critical age of the world, and our earnest prayer that for as long as possible these benefits may flow from the same hands to a grateful and an adoring people. [*Loud cheers.*]

THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY, who was received with cheers, said: My Lords, if the noble Marquess felt some perplexity as to what could be said upon an occasion like the present, my difficulty must necessarily be the greater after the noble Marquess has expressed, with, I am sure, the absolute concurrence of every Member of the House—[*cheers*]—in terms most felicitous and most sufficient, what we all feel. It is unnecessary—the noble Marquess has, I think, wisely avoided it to a great extent—to dilate upon the virtues of our Sovereign. It is known to all of us, it is known to all the people of this country, it is known to all the peoples of the vast Empire over which she rules, that there is no one throughout that Empire who could have inspired more universal respect, more universal regard, not only as a Sovereign, but as a woman, than the Queen who presides over us. ["Hear, hear!"] My Lords, the noble Marquess referred justly to the great changes which have taken place since Her Majesty's reign commenced. I am one of those, unfortunately, who can even remember when there was no railway entering the Metropolis. I well remember the opening of the London and North Western Railway, which was the first railway running out of and into London. That was one of the most momentous changes which has taken place, not only in this country, but in the world, because it is the enormous increase in the facility of communicating with each other, whether by letter, by railway, and, it is perhaps still more important, by telegraph, which has altered the whole face of every community of civilised people in the world, and it is not too much to say that there never has been in the world a period during which changes so momentous and affecting the whole of mankind have taken place as have taken place in the 60 years during which the Queen has reigned. That in itself would make a remarkable epoch. But, my Lords, there is something else important and which is personal to the Sovereign—namely, that we have never before had a Sovereign who has reigned so long and who has never for one moment forfeited the affections of the people. [*Cheers.*] We have never before had a Sovereign who was respected equally by all parties, who was absolutely impartial to all. [*Cheers.*] We have never had a Sovereign—at all events in times that any of us can well remember—so capable of aiding her Ministers with wise and prudent counsel. ["Hear, hear!"] As the noble Marquess has justly said, no mistake could be greater than to suppose that the Sovereign of this country does not exercise a constant, a wise, and a most important influence upon all the political events of the reign. If I simply make one remark, you will see at once how true that must be. Ministers go and change. They are not perpetual. The one person who remains at the head of affairs, cognisant of everything that takes place, is the Sovereign, and that Sovereign obtains an experience of the highest public affairs unequalled by any Minister, however powerful. You will see, then, how great is the influence and how great is the power, though it may be an unseen power, of our Sovereign. There is further immense advantage we derive from such a head of our State. In no other way could we centre the affection of the citizens or the subjects of the Empire as we can centre it in the Sovereign at our head. She alone, being impartial, being entirely unconnected with our party struggles—she alone can be the object of that affection which exists throughout her wide dominions, and it is no mean advantage to an Empire to have, not a mere figure-head, but one personage to whom all look with equal respect, love, and affection. [*Cheers.*] My Lords, I have very few more words to say. We are proud of our institutions. We are proud, I think justly, of the manner in which they have conduced to the happiness of the nation, but institutions are made for men, and it is upon men themselves that the worth of those institutions mainly depends. But what is it which we boast has specially characterised the people of this country, which, I believe, more than anything else, has made it great? It has been a prudent and calm temperament, and, above all, a sense of duty; and I venture to say that no one has been more actuated by that paramount sense of duty than the Sovereign, and none has shown it more conspicuously through a life not unbroken by severe trials. [" Hear, hear! " *and cheers.*] My Lords, I am sure I express the feelings of all on this side of the House when I say that we most cordially concur in the Address the noble Marquess has moved, and that we most earnestly from our hearts wish all length of life and happiness to our Queen. [*Loud cheers.*]

Address agreed to *nemine dissentiente.*

THE PRIME MINISTER: I beg to move "That the Address be presented by the whole House."

Motion agreed to.

THE PRIME MINISTER moved: "That those of the House who are Privy Councillors ascertain from Her Majesty when it is her pleasure to receive the Address."

Motion agreed to.

THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY: May I ask for how long it is proposed to adjourn the House?

THE PRIME MINISTER: Of course, if the House wishes, it can meet earlier; but it is proposed to adjourn until Two o'clock on Wednesday. We have to meet here, at all events technically and nominally, at Two o'clock. We have to be at the Palace at Three o'clock.

THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY: When are we likely to meet after that for business?

THE PRIME MINISTER: We shall meet on Thursday as usual.

THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY: I have no wish on the subject; I only wanted to know.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: May I ask the noble Marquess, as several Peers on this side of the House would like to be informed, whether it is intended that when the Address is presented we should be in levée dress or what?

THE PRIME MINISTER: I do not know whether my noble Friend the Lord Chamberlain is here. [*Laughter.*]

VISCOUNT CLIFDEN: I should like to know when we are to meet for business?

THE PRIME MINISTER: That is a reasonable question, but before I answer it I should like to ascertain from the other House whether there is any business likely to keep us. I do not know why noble Lords should meet on Thursday if they are otherwise engaged. I should have thought Monday would be soon enough.

House Adjourned at Twenty-five Minutes before Three o'Clock, to Wednesday next, Two o'Clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, 21st June 1897.

NOTICE OF MOTION.

MONETARY EXCHANGES (BRITISH EMPIRE).

Mr. R. G. WEBSTER (St. Pancras, E.): To call attention to the diversity of the monetary exchange in the various parts of the British Empire, and the consequent loss to the agricultural, manufacturing, and mercantile interests thereby; and to move a Resolution.—[*Monday, 19th July.*]

QUESTIONS.

QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE.

Mr. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether the Postmaster General has received a memorial from the National Sub-Postmasters' Federation, praying that Jubilee Day, the 22nd instant, might be allowed to be observed as Sunday for office duties by the sub-postmasters, numbering 19,000, in the employ of the Post Office, who will otherwise be deprived of what is a general holiday; and whether, if the requirements of the public service cannot afford this, another day as holiday will be allowed to the sub-postmasters in lieu thereof?

The SECRETARY to the TREASURY (Mr. R. W. Hanbury, Preston): It would be contrary to the interests of the public to allow the Sub-Post Offices throughout the country to be closed for the whole or nearly the whole of the day on the 22nd instant, and the Postmaster General is unable to do more than treat the day as a Bank Holiday, which will admit of Sub-Post Offices which are not Telegraph Offices being closed at noon. He regrets he cannot undertake to give a holiday on another day.

Mr. J. W. MACLURE (Lancashire, Stretford): I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works whether a refreshment bar is being, or will be, constructed under the stage erected for Her Majesty's Jubilee in the Speaker's Green; and whether it is true that no wines or spirits can be sold therein, in consequence of this House not having or holding any licence?

The FIRST COMMISSIONER of WORKS (Mr. A. Akers-Douglas, Kent, St. Augustine's): In answer to the hon. Member's Question, I have to state that a refreshment bar has been erected. ["Hear, hear!"] With regard to the class of entertainment provided, I must refer the hon. Member to the Kitchen Committee.

In reply to Mr. Patrick O'Brien,

Mr. AKERS-DOUGLAS said that no further arrangements could be made for the attendants at the House to facilitate their witnessing the Jubilee State Procession. Every possible arrangement had been made to provide for the permanent staff, and he understood from them that they were very well satisfied.

Sir GEORGE BADEN-POWELL (Liverpool, Kirkdale): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty whether steps can be taken to enable officers and men of the Royal Naval Reserve to muster in uniform and be present on board some of Her Majesty's ships at the approaching Jubilee Naval Review?

The FIRST LORD of the ADMIRALTY (Mr. Goschen, St. George's, Hanover Square): I do not exactly know what the hon. Member means by the Royal Naval Reserve mustering on board the ships. Forty-one Royal Naval Reserve officers, 676 first and second class Royal Naval Reserve men, and 136 firemen will be on board Her Majesty's ships at the Naval Review, and will be taking duty in uniform in their proper place side by side with the Royal Navy.

Sir JOHN COLOMB (Great Yarmouth): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty whether he will arrange to have placed on board the vessels taking the Colonial forces round the Fleet on Wednesday next, a sufficient supply of Parliamentary Return (Seagoing War Ships, &c.), No. 460, Session 2, 1895, showing the value of seaborne commerce, mercantile marine, annual revenue, and Naval expenditure on seagoing force of the United Kingdom, the Colonies, and Foreign countries respectively, with a view to affording the officers and men information respecting the Naval responsibilities of the Empire and the cost of their discharge, and to enable them to compare the action of their own Colonies with that of the Mother Country and of Foreign countries in providing for defence of maritime interests?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY: No, Sir; I cannot accept the ingenious suggestion of my honourable and gallant Friend. The viewing of a great outdoor display and the visiting of the ships is not an appropriate moment for the study of complicated comparative statistics.

*MR. BURDETT-COUTTS (Westminster) asked whether it was still too late to arrange that the colonial troops might see the British Fleet at the same time and under the same circumstances that the rest of England would see it? [*Cheers.*]

THE FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY said he was sorry to find that rumours had been circulated to the effect that the absence of arrangement by which the colonial troops now in England might witness the Review on the 26th was due to financial considerations. ["Hear, hear!"] That was not the case, and it was a great pity that attempts should be made to spoil the grace of the reception by such insinuations. ["Hear, hear!"] The difficulties were not those of finance, they were difficulties of arrangements. The responsibilities of the authorities at Portsmouth with the enormous number of ships there and visiting ships expected were immense; the railway accommodation was absorbed, there were to be 40 special trains on one of the lines, and jetty accommodation was entirely taken up. The difficulties in the way of providing for the colonial troops were most serious. This morning, however, the Admiralty had received an offer of a ship and a special train, which had been provided for other purposes. The gentleman who had secured this ship and train had offered these to the Admiralty —[*cheers*]—of course, on the usual terms. [*Laughter and ironical cheers.*] Of course it was perfectly right and reasonable this should be so. [*Ironical cheers.*] The Admiralty, the Treasury, and, he was sure, the House of Commons, would be prepared to defray the cost. [*Cheers.*] Having received this offer, he had placed himself in communication with the officers commanding the colonial troops and the Commander-in-Chief at Portsmouth, whose responsibilities must not be increased up to a point that would endanger a breakdown in the arrangements; that was laid down as an absolute proposition. He had telegraphed to him informing him of the strong desire existing that provision should be made, and, the train and ship being available, there remained the difficulty of finding room for the ship in waters almost as full of traffic as the streets of the metropolis. He was in communication with the officer commanding, and he hoped that difficulties might be overcome. From the first there had been the greatest desire in the Departments to do full justice to our guests, and he ventured to think that indications of this desire had already been given. He hoped that with the offer placing the train and ship at the disposal of the Admiralty the suggestion in the Question might be met. ["Hear, hear!"]

MR. CUMMING MACDONA (Southwark, Rotherhithe) inquired if colonial Members of Parliament were to receive invitations?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY said special arrangements had been made for colonial Premiers and 150 colonial guests. Inquiries on this point should be addressed to the Colonial Office; the Admiralty could only do what was possible in providing ships.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis) asked whether, in the event of difficulties arising as to trains or jetties, the right hon. Gentleman would consider the possibility of embarking their colonial visitors on Friday, and taking them round by sea?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY said this had been considered. He had been in communication with the officer commanding, who thought there would be great difficulty in making the arrangement, but it would be considered.

MR. J. M. MACLEAN (Cardiff): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether the British Volunteers in India, constituting an Imperial force of nearly 30,000 men, were invited to send representatives to England to take part in the procession of 22nd June; and, if not, will he explain on what grounds?

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Mr. G. CURZON, Lancashire, Southport), on behalf of LORD GEORGE HAMILTON: The Question as to what representatives of the forces in India should be sent home to take part in the procession of the 22nd June was fully considered in communication with the Viceroy of India, and it was decided to follow the precedent of 1887, increasing the number of officers of the Native Cavalry, and adding representatives of the Imperial Service troops from the Native States. Neither the Native Infantry nor Volunteers are represented on the present occasion.

POST OFFICE PETITION.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he is aware that a petition recently forwarded by the clerks of the Eastern Central District has been returned because it was not written on foolscap paper; whether he is aware that a petition from the Central Telegraph Office written on similar paper was accepted; and if, considering the urgency of the petition, and the difficulty attending the procuring of signatures in the Eastern Central District, he will accept the petition as it stands?

MR. HANBURY: The Postmaster General was not aware, but he finds that it was done in accordance with an old standing rule of the London Postal Service, which must have been well known to the petitioners. He is aware that the petition from the Central Telegraph Office, which is not part of the London Postal Service, was accepted. That of the Eastern Central District was returned on Monday the 31st ult.; and a fresh petition in proper form, which was received on the 3rd inst., is now under consideration.

DOG-MUZZLING (SHEEP DOGS).

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucester, Forest of Dean): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture what is the result of the inquiries into the application of the dog-muzzling order to sheep dogs while working?

Mr. J. M. Maclean.

*THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. WALTER LONG, Liverpool, West Derby): I have caused a special inquiry to be made as to this matter, the result of which goes to show that no really serious inconvenience is caused by requiring sheep dogs to be muzzled in districts in which such a measure is necessary. This view is confirmed by the past experience, both of the Board of Agriculture and many local authorities, when muzzling regulations have been made. Moreover, the proposed exemption would seriously impair the efficiency of the orders now in force, and render it necessary for them to be continued for a longer period than I hope will be necessary. I regret, therefore, that I do not see my way to adopt the suggestion which the right hon. Baronet has made to me.

MR. THOMAS BAYLEY (Derbyshire, Chesterfield) asked whether the muzzling order applied to sporting as well as to sheep dogs?

*MR. WALTER LONG: No, Sir; it does not. ["Hear, hear!"]

PLUMBERS' REGISTRATION BILL.

MR. W. WOODALL (Hanley): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether, in view of the important powers proposed to be conferred upon the Plumbers' Company by the Plumbers' Registration Bill, a copy of the charter and of the bye-laws of the Company can be laid upon the Table of the House, showing how the Master and Wardens and Commonalty of the Freemen of the Ancient Guild of Plumbers are appointed and removed, and under what conditions they hold office?

MR. G. C. T. BARTLEY (Islington, N.): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether, before the Plumbers' Registration Bill is further proceeded with, he will lay upon the Table a statement showing the constitution and resources of the Ancient Guild of Plumbers, who are to administer the Bill if it become law?

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. HENRY CHAPLIN, Lincolnshire, Sleaford): It will be convenient that I should, in answering this Question, also reply to the Question of my hon. Friend the Member for North Islington. I am informed that the only charter of the Company known to be in existence is one granted by James I. The earlier charters are believed to be lost. The Ordinance dates back to the time of Edward III. The Report of the City of London Livery Companies Commission of 1884, however, contains a lengthy abstract of the charter and the provisions of the Ordinances and bye-laws of the Company. The Returns for the purpose of that Commission were supplemented by information relative to the later regulations of the Company given in evidence before the Select Committee on the Plumbers' Registration Bill, 1892. I have no doubt that, if it be desired, the Company would cause to be furnished a brief statement of the constitution and resources of the Company, which might, if it were moved for, be laid on the Table of the House.

MEDALS (33RD REGIMENT).

Mr. R. PIERPOINT (Warrington): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that the 33rd Regiment served in India during the Mutiny; could he state why the officers and men of the regiment have not received medals in recognition of their services; and whether medals will now be given the survivors of those who served?

The UNDER SECRETARY of STATE for WAR (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford): The Indian Mutiny Medal was intended only for troops engaged with the mutineers. The 33rd Regiment, though quartered in India at the time of the Mutiny, was not so employed, and therefore did not receive the medal.

NAVAL MANŒUVRES.

Sir EDWARD GOURLEY (Sunderland): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty, (1) can he state to the House at what time, and where, it is intended to mobilise the Channel and Reserve Squadrons for the annual exercises and manœuvres; (2) whether the operations are to be held between the English Channel, East Coast of Scotland, and north of Europe, or only upon the old routes, or both; (3) will he state the number and classes of vessels that will be manœuvred at sea, and how many, and the description of vessels which will form the reserve for harbour defence and relief operations; (4) whether experiments in coaling will be performed at sea; and (5) can he also state what number of men of the coastguard, and how many of the first and second class reserves of seamen, and how many of stokers and firemen are to be embarked, and upon what terms?

The FIRST LORD of the ADMIRALTY: The answer to the first Question is that the Channel and Reserve Squadrons have been already mobilised. I am not prepared at present to answer the second Question. The information asked for in the third Question will be published later, as in former years. The answer to the fourth Question is in the negative. The answer to the fifth Question is that 1,858 Coastguardsmen and 676 first and second class and 136 firemen of the Royal Naval Reserve have been embarked upon the same terms as in previous years.

NATIONAL SCHOOL TEACHERS (IRELAND).

Dr. TANNER (Cork Co., Mid): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether it is the intention to demand a still further deduction from the salaries of the Irish National School Teachers for the purpose of insuring the solvency of the Pension Fund; whether the enforcement in this direction is in accordance with the contract entered into with the teachers when joining the scheme; whether any such deficiency was or was not made duly public in due time; and, if the amount in question can be made good from Imperial sources?

The hon. Member also asked the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if the amount due under the Arrears Act, amounting, as recently given, to £100,000, will either be entirely or only partially granted to the Irish National Teachers?

The CHIEF SECRETARY for IRELAND (Mr. Gerald Balfour, Leeds, Central): It is the intention to require from the Irish National School teachers an increase of their subscriptions to the Pension Fund. The subscription as thus increased will not exceed the amount which the teachers ought to have been required to pay from the beginning.

There is no intention to make teachers who now subscribe to the fund pay for the pensions of future subscribers. The arrangement proposed is in my opinion a fair one, and I am not aware of any contract entered into with the teachers when joining the scheme inconsistent with it.

CAPTAIN DONELAN (Cork, E.): May I ask whether the right hon. Gentleman has received any resolution from the National Teachers' Association of Ireland on the subject.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: Yes, Sir; I have received such a resolution, but it appears to me to be based upon a misconception.

NAVAL HOSPITALS.

DR. TANNER: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty whether any, and if so what, system is pursued with regard to the audit of all Naval Hospital diet sheets?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY: The various diet sheets are compiled by the Medical Officers of wards, who enter personally on them, daily, the diets they have ordered. These sheets are examined in the office of the principal Medical Officer in charge of the hospital, who certifies on the quarterly provision account that this has been done. The audit of the hospital accounts, which includes that of diet sheets, has been conducted for some time past by the Controller and Auditor General.

TELEPHONE TRUNK LINES.

MR. A. D. PROVAND (Glasgow, Blackfriars): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, how much money has been voted in connection with the telephone service, beginning with sums paid when the trunk lines were taken over by the Post Office?

MR. HANBURY: The amount authorised by Parliament for the purposes of the Acts 55 and 56 Vict., ch. 59, and 59 and 60 Vict., ch. 40, is £1,300,000. In the ordinary annual Votes no separate provision is made by Parliament, and, therefore, the information desired by the hon. Member cannot be furnished.

Chief Secretary for Ireland.

DEATH DUTIES.

SIR GEORGE BADEN-POWELL: I beg to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he will state what is the total amount of deductions from Death Duties made during the past financial year under Section 20 of the Finance Act of 1894?

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bristol, W.): £18,000.

LETTER BOXES.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether sub-postmasters are called upon to fix wall letter boxes at, and where necessary erect iron pillar letter boxes opposite, their offices at their own expense, and at a cost varying from £3 to £8, and in addition to keep them in repair and have them painted regularly; and whether, seeing that in some cases the Department has refunded the whole cost to the sub-postmaster in quarterly instalments, and in others half the cost only, but that in the majority of cases nothing has been refunded towards the cost, one uniform system could be adopted, and every sub-postmaster be refunded the full cost of the letter box?

MR. HANBURY: It is part of every sub-postmaster's duty to provide a letter box at his own expense and maintain it, and as a general rule he makes his own arrangements for doing so. But in special cases where structural difficulties exist, a pillar box is erected and the sub-postmaster is required to pay for the box a sum of about £4, which is estimated also to cover the cost of maintenance. The Department has sometimes felt justified in exceptional cases, such as a very brief tenure of the office, in remitting a portion of the expense incurred, but it is not thought expedient that the full cost of the box should be borne by the Revenue, and Lord Tweedmouth's Committee expressed their opinion that "the provision of letter boxes must be regarded as one of the conditions of sub-postmasters employment."

POST OFFICE (LEAVE OF ABSENCE).

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General (1) whether sub-postmasters are the only section of the 140,000 servants of the Post Office for whom the Department do not provide a substitute at the public expense during annual leave or during sickness; and (2) whether, when a clerk is sent from the head office to take charge for the sub-postmaster, the sub-postmaster is almost invariably called upon to pay considerably more for the relief than he has himself been paid for the same period, and in addition also held responsible by the Department for all the clerk does or omits?

MR. HANBURY: Substantially the answer to the first part of the hon. Member's Question is in the affirmative. It must be remembered that, unlike other officers of the Department, the sub-postmasters, as a rule, are not required to give their whole time to the service, but are at liberty to attend to private business. Those who must devote their whole time to the work of the Department are allowed leave at the public expense. Generally speaking, in the absence of a sub-postmaster who has a private business, the work of the Post Office is carried on by his assistant or some member of his family, and it is not necessary for him to obtain the services of another officer; but when it is necessary he has to pay for them, and no doubt it is often the case that the temporary payment is at a higher rate than his own salary for the same period. He is, of course, still held responsible for the business of the office.

WATER SUPPLY (LONDON).

MR. B. L. COHEN (Islington, E.): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he is aware that the Royal Commission on the Water Supply of London have been unable to commence their inquiry in consequence of no rooms having been assigned to the Commission to hold their sittings; and whether he can state when the necessary accommodation will be provided and the Inquiry commenced?

MR. CHAPLIN: I am informed that the Commissioners held their first meeting on May 29, when temporary accommodation was provided for them. Offices have since been assigned to the Commission, and I am advised that the Inquiry is proceeding.

GRAND JURY (CO. WICKLOW).

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the Secretary of the County Wicklow Grand Jury has withheld a sum of money due to Mr. Whelan, Tinahely, for work done as a road contractor; and upon what grounds, or for what purpose, has the money been retained?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: The Secretary of the Grand Jury informs me that in obedience to an Order of the Exchequer Division of the High Court, he paid the amount in question to Mr. Symes, who was appointed, by the Order, Receiver over the moneys payable by the Grand Jury to Whelan for road contracts, to satisfy, in part, the amount of the judgment in an action brought by Whelan against Symes.

HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS COMMISSION.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE (Kerry, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury when the Report of the Vote for the Expenses of the Historical Manuscripts Commission will be taken?

MR. HANBURY: The Report of this Vote will be postponed till Monday next.

WOUNDING AN ENGLISH SAILOR AT VENICE.

MR. W. S. ROBSON (South Shields): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he is aware that, on the 9th May last, an English sailor, Thomas Storrer, of the s.s. *Silverton*, was seriously wounded by the police of Venice, one of whom shot him while he was in their custody and making no attempt at escape; whether it is the fact that no punishment has been imposed on the officer who fired the shot; and whether he will cause inquiries to be made into the case, and procure the punishment of that officer, or such compensation for Storrer as the circumstances may show to be proper?

Mr. CURZON: The incident was duly reported by Her Majesty's Consul at Venice to the Board of Trade on the 12th of May. The Inspector of Police furnished the Consul with a statement of the circumstances, to the effect that Storrer attempted to throw one of the police officers into the sea, and at the same time to release himself from the grasp of another, who drew his pistol, wounding Storrer, it is alleged, accidentally. The bullet was successfully extracted at the hospital, and it does not appear that the wound has had any serious consequences. The trial of Storrer and of the other seamen charged with him with riotous conduct was concluded on the 11th instant. They were sentenced to 32 days' imprisonment, but were immediately released, having already been detained that time in prison. The police officer who fired the shot was acquitted. The Consul applied for and was authorised to provide legal assistance for the men. Her Majesty's Ambassador at Rome, who has been apprised of the fact by the Consul, will be requested to state his views on the case, concerning which we have at present no further information.

2nd DRAGOON GUARDS.

Mr. MACLURE: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that the 2nd Dragoon Guards, when sent to Shorncliffe, were informed that they would be quartered there until the end of this year; that, upon this understanding, several of the officers took houses in the neighbourhood at great expense to last out this time; and that last week notice was given to them to be ready to depart for London within a week, and to go thence to York; and will the Secretary of State for War indemnify these officers who upon such short notice have had to make so great a sacrifice?

Mr. BRODRICK: The duration of a regiment's stay at any particular station must depend on circumstances, and no information as to the term of its stay at Shorncliffe could have been given by authority to the regiment referred to. On the other hand, it was intimated in the February Army Orders that the regiment would proceed to Yorkshire after the summer drills at Aldershot. There would therefore appear to be no ground for compensation.

POST OFFICE SORTERS.

Sir ALBERT ROLLIT (Islington, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether it is with the sanction of the Postmaster General that the practice which has existed for many years at the Northern District Office is to be departed from, and that suburban overseers who have been recruited from the ranks of postmen are to be introduced into the town office to supervise sorters who have passed a high educational test, sorters being thus deprived of their chance of promotion?

Mr. HANBURY: The second class of overseers in the Northern District, as in other districts of London, has become redundant under the recommendations of the Tweedmouth Committee, and the question of disposing of the officers at present in this class is now being considered. No decision has yet been arrived at.

SUPPLY (POST OFFICE ESTIMATES).

Sir ALBERT ROLLIT: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, when will the Revenue Departments (Post Office) Estimates be taken?

Mr. HANBURY: These Estimates will not be taken on Friday.

NAVAL WORKS LOANS BILL.

***Sir CHARLES DILKE**: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty when the Naval Works Loans Bill is to be introduced?

The FIRST LORD of the ADMIRALTY: The Bill is quite ready, and will be introduced by the Civil Lord at the earliest opportunity after the Jubilee celebrations are over.

SHEEP SCAB.

Major RASCH (Essex, S.E.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture whether his attention has been called to the increase of sheep scab in certain districts of the Eastern Counties; and whether he would cause regulations to be enforced to prevent its spread, particularly with reference to foreign sheep?

*Mr. LONG: There has recently been some increase in the number of outbreaks of sheep scab reported from two or three counties in the East of England, but, taking the Eastern Counties as a whole, the present position is not at all unsatisfactory. Where such outbreaks occur it is for the local authority to enforce the requirements of the Sheep Scab Order of 1895, which contains a complete code of regulations on the subject. No danger of the introduction of the disease by means of foreign sheep now exists, inasmuch as all such sheep are required to be slaughtered at the port of landing.

PEA THRIPP.

Major RASCH: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture whether the Board of Agriculture would issue instructions relative to the treatment of pea thripp, or pea louse, which has recently appeared in the county of Essex?

*Mr. LONG: We have not previously received any complaint as to damage done by the particular insect to which my hon. and gallant Friend refers, but inquiry shall at once be instituted with a view to see whether we can with advantage take any steps in the matter.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHERS' SUPERANNUATION.

Mr. J. H. YOXALL (Nottingham, W.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury if he is able to indicate an approximate date for the introduction of a Bill to establish a State-aided system of superannuation for aged and infirm teachers in Board and Voluntary Schools?

The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.) could only say on this subject that which he thought he had already said, that he hoped the Measure would be introduced without any undue delay.

ADULTERATION OF FOOD PRODUCTS.

Mr. ARTHUR JEFFREYS (Hants, Basingstoke): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury if he can now state when he proposes to introduce the Bill dealing with the adulteration of food products?

Major RASCH: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether the Government can now state when they will introduce a Bill to give effect to the recommendations of the Committee on Food Products Adulteration?

The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY said he was unable to fix a date, but he hoped the Bill would be introduced next week or the week after, but he could give no specific pledge.

REVIEW AT ALDERSHOT.

Sir J. DICKSON-POYNDER (Wilts, Chippenham) inquired if any arrangements had been made whereby Members could witness the Review at Aldershot?

Mr. BRODRICK: Every Member of the House will be entitled to a free place in the stands which will be erected near the saluting point at the Review on July 1. Special trains will be provided, and transport from Farnborough Station at a cost for each ticket of £1. The free tickets for stands and the train tickets will be non-transferable. Members desiring to obtain a second ticket can have one on payment of 15s. for the stand and £1 for transport. Applications for tickets should be made to Mr. Speaker's Secretary not later than Friday evening next, after which no applications can be entertained. These applications should specify whether railway and transport tickets are required or not. The Review will take place about 5 p.m. About 4,000 seats have been erected for sale to the general public at prices from 30s. to 15s. each. Applications for the purchase of these tickets should be addressed to the General Officer commanding at Aldershot.

INTERMEDIATE EDUCATION EXAMINATIONS (IRELAND).

*Mr. W. JOHNSTON (Belfast, S.) asked the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention had been called to the fact that the Commissioners of Education in Ireland, although they observed the 17th June as a holiday, did not intend to do so on Jubilee Day; and whether he would take steps to cause June 22 to be observed as a holiday in Ireland as in England?

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: I find that the examinations of the Intermediate Education Board for Ireland extend from Monday 14th June, to Monday 28th June. These dates were fixed so far back as November 1896. I fear it would not now be possible for the Commissioners to consider the question of postponing the examination fixed for to-morrow.

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES.

Mr. HENNIKER HEATON (Canterbury) asked the Secretary to the Treasury what arrangement had been made for reporting the Parliamentary proceedings next Session, and whether the contract had been let for five years at a price precluding the possibility of the work being done efficiently?

Mr. HANBURY: The contract was, as usual, put up to public competition, and the lowest tender has been accepted. Bonds for a large amount have been offered, and will be taken for the due performance of the contract. The amount of the subsidy is the same as is paid to the present contractors, and in his note giving me private notice of this Question, the hon. Member says that the present contractors give general satisfaction. It is therefore obvious that the rate does not preclude the possibility of an effective Report.

Mr. HENNIKER HEATON said, arising out of that reply, he begged to ask his right hon. Friend and evader of the facts whether he was aware that the present contract was carried on at a loss, and only because a large portion of the expense was shared by a powerful and wealthy morning newspaper was it continued to be carried on?

Mr. HANBURY: I am not aware of this.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

In reply to Mr. James Lowther (Kent, Thanet),

The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY said he proposed on Thursday to take Class 5 of the Civil Service Estimates, the Revenue Department Votes, with the exception of the Post Office. On Friday he proposed to take the Scotch Votes. He must reserve any statement with regard to next week for a few days.

NEW MEMBER SWORN.

William Graham Nicholson, esquire, for the County of Hants (Eastern or Petersfield Division).

FRANCHISE AND REMOVAL OF WOMEN'S DISABILITY BILL.

Second Reading deferred from Wednesday till Wednesday 7th July.

HIGHWAYS BILL.

Second Reading deferred from this day till Friday.

OCCUPYING TENANTS' ENFRANCHISEMENT (PURCHASE OF FEE SIMPLE) BILL.

Second Reading deferred from this day till Tuesday 27th July.

OLD AGE PROVIDENT PENSIONS BILL.

Second Reading deferred from this day till Tuesday 27th July.

OUTDOOR PROVIDENT RELIEF BILL.

Second Reading deferred from this day till Tuesday 27th July.

LABOUR BUREAUX BILL.

Order for Second Reading [this day] Read, and discharged; Bill withdrawn.

BUILDING FEUS AND LEASES (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Order for Second Reading [this day] Read, and discharged; Bill withdrawn.

QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE.

ADDRESS OF CONGRATULATION TO HER MAJESTY.

The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.), rising amid loud cheering from all parts of the House, said: I think, Mr. Speaker, it will be admitted that but very few words are required from me to justify the Motion of which notice appears upon the Paper. We should but very ill-represent the country at large if we remained silent and dumb, or refused to take any part in the chorus of congratulation which is arising from every portion of this vast Empire upon the auspicious anniversary which we are approaching. ["Hear, hear!"] Sir, I think it would be superfluous—I think it might, indeed, be worse than superfluous—were I to attempt to enumerate any of the remarkable changes and events which have so signally distinguished the 60 years of Her Majesty's reign. Great, indeed, those changes have been. You will seldom find comprised within the compass of two generations so many great industrial, scientific, and literary changes—I had almost said revolutions—as have characterised the two generations which have passed since Her Majesty ascended the Throne. ["Hear, hear!"] Sir, the discussion of the characteristics of the Victorian epoch has occupied enough, perhaps, of public attention and has been made the theme of a sufficient number of speeches and of theses. More interesting is it and more germane to the Resolution which I have the honour to propose, to ask ourselves whether the universal popular instinct is in this case justified which associates, which closely associates, the personality of the Queen with the triumphs which have distinguished her reign. [*Cheers.*] Sir, there have been great monarchs who, as it were, by force, have stamped upon the people over whom they ruled their sign manual, who have so moulded them that for generations they have borne the impress of what may almost be described as their original creator. Such men, in their time, and in their place, have been among the great benefactors of mankind. But, Sir, there is no room in a society like ours for services of that kind, nor would it be desirable that any monarch should attempt to render such services to a country like our own. ["Hear, hear!"] Nor have the services of Her Majesty been of that character. ["Hear, hear!"] Again, Sir, there have been epochs in which Sovereigns have reigned, and have had prosperous reigns, of whom nevertheless history cannot claim that they bore any share in the important transactions which occurred during their reign of power; whose reigns, therefore, serve but to mark an historical epoch—serve, as it were, but to mark out a special period of chronology. And, again, I say the reign of Her Majesty is not a reign of that description. ["Hear, hear!"] No negation ever excited the passionate devotion and affectionate loyalty which the Queen has inspired in the minds of her subjects. [*Cheers.*] No, Sir. If to-day this Metropolis of the Empire is crowded by representatives from every continent in the globe—not all of our blood or of our language; men in many cases of a different race and heirs of a different civilisation, but all unanimous, all breathing one spirit of devotion to the Sovereign of these realms—if, Sir, that be the fact, as undoubtedly it is, we may be quite sure that such feelings have not been stirred by an abstraction, and that there is at the bottom of all this personal devotion something which rightly has called that devotion into existence. [*Cheers.*] Sir, it is true that the reign of Her Majesty has been a reign of unexampled length. It is also true that it has been a reign of unexampled prosperity. Yet, in celebrating this Jubilee, we are not ministering, I believe, to sentiments of national vanity or to vulgar feelings of national complacency, but we are really offering up from our hearts a homage to the great lady who rules over us. [*Great cheering.*] Sir, if you ask, or if any ask, what are the virtues which have called forth this demonstration, if anybody asks what are the claims to this national regard, I think the answer is not difficult to give. It is because, as the Queen is pre-eminent in station, so she has been pre-eminent in virtue. ["Hear, hear!"] It is because she has so well understood the difficult and delicate tasks which fall to a constitutional monarch to perform, that the constitution of this country has during her reign been able to adapt itself, without friction and without shock, to the varying needs of this great community. It is because through a long and laborious life she has been animated by a single view of public duty. ["Hear, hear!"] It is because in her public life she has been an example to every Sovereign, and in her private life an example to every citizen. ["Hear, hear!" *and cheers.*] It is because she has shared our anxieties and shared our triumphs. It is because she has been throughout animated and inspired by our national ideals, that this nation, and this House as representing this nation, delight to do her honour. [*Cheers.*] It is therefore, Sir, with an absolute confidence that these sentiments, however feebly expressed, are the sentiments common to all who hear me that I beg now to move,—

"That an humble Address be presented to Her Majesty, to congratulate Her Majesty on the auspicious completion of the 60th year of her happy reign; and to assure Her Majesty that this House profoundly shares the great joy with which her people celebrate the longest, the most prosperous, and the most illustrious reign in their history; joining with them in praying earnestly for the continuance during many years of Her Majesty's life and health."

[The right hon. Gentleman resumed his seat amid loud cheers from all parts of the House.]

*SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT (Monmouthshire, W.): I can hope to add little to the eloquent and graceful terms in which the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the House has introduced this Motion, which I rise to second. [*Cheers.*] I have, indeed, a qualification which he does not possess and which he will not envy me—that I can recall, as if it were to-day, the booming of the guns which announced the accession of the Queen. [*Cheers.*] It is most right and fitting that an Address of congratulation should be presented to the Sovereign from the House of Commons, which has the highest claim to represent the sentiment of the nation. Since the accession of the Queen this Parliament has been placed upon a still wider basis of representation than that which hailed at her accession. The early reign of the Queen began with a new political epoch, at a period when the real enfranchisement of the people had only recently commenced. It was an era of reform—social, political, financial, and commercial; and indeed there was great need in those days for such reforms. It is only those who can personally recollect what was the condition of the population of this country 60 years ago who can realise the enormous progress and improvement which have been made in the welfare of the people. [*Cheers.*] We rejoice to-day, and justly rejoice, in the greatness of this Empire, and the extension of the dominions of the Queen. But for the maintenance of such a vast structure there must be solid foundations at the base, and those foundations can only be found in a prosperous and a contented people. [*Cheers.*] Sir, I am myself able to testify that it was not always so. I can remember when the people of this country were neither prosperous nor contented, when disorder was rife amidst the masses of the population, who were impatient of suffering and intolerant of their miserable lot. Anyone who is acquainted with the social history of this country, I should say, for the first six years of the Queen's reign—from 1837 to 1843—and remembers what the sufferings were in the great towns, and still more perhaps in the rural districts, will be able to form some conception of the marvellous improvement that has taken place in the staple of the nation, in the growth not only of its numbers, but in the health and wealth, in the moral not less than the physical fibre of the people. [*Cheers.*] That has been above all other things the distinguishing feature, to my mind, of this auspicious reign. A people better fed, better clothed, better housed, better paid, better educated, crime diminished, taxation on the poorer classes lightened—this is the solid base upon which this vast Empire rests. [*Cheers.*] I can recall the fears of the brave and the follies of the wise, who dreaded lest the extension of popular power might endanger the Constitution of the country. Yet it must be acknowledged that in these sixty years the Queen has given the final sanction to measure after measure of democratic reform, and each extension of popular right has only strengthened the Monarchy and increased the confidence of the people. [*Cheers.*] Queen Victoria has never feared her people. [*Loud cheers.*] Decade after decade has passed with a progressive march of popular reforms, and the Sovereign has never been more trusted or more revered, and, as the right hon. Gentleman well indicated, this enlarged democracy has been peacefully and insensibly incorporated into the framework of an ancient throne. [*Cheers.*] We celebrate to-day, and gladly celebrate with just pride the gathering of the representatives of our distant colonies. They are communities who went forth instinct with the same love of freedom which was native to their parent State. They carried that spirit beyond the seas, and it has borne the fruit of self-government and of self-reliance. [*Cheers.*] In this memorable growth of our race and of our Empire there has presided for two generations of men, one figure who has presented to the world the British name with a noble simplicity of greatness which has not been known before, and which will live for ever in the records of this nation. [*Cheers.*] It has been asked, What has been the office which the Queen has performed? That office has been the supreme tie which bound together various classes and diverse races in these vast dominions, which has held them in one united whole by a Sovereign partaking the spirit of the people, which has gathered them in growing affection around her throne. [*Cheers.*] The blessing that was invoked by the patriarchs of old was length of days and multitude of offspring. Surely never has a Sovereign been surrounded by a more illustrious progeny, both in her family and in her people. Her subjects are to be found on every shore, and her children's children are established in honour in many a State. As the right hon. Gentleman said, there have been glorious reigns in the great traditions of this land—reigns of strife and of storm, of peril and of conquest, but if I might be permitted to affix an adjective, a characteristic of this reign, I should call it a sympathetic reign. [*Cheers.*] It has appealed to the heart of the nation, and it is the heart of the nation still more than its pride that speaks to-day and addresses Queen Victoria in the sixtieth year of her reign. She has made her people feel that she was the companion of their joy and the partaker of their distress and in all their fortunes—whether ill or good—her sympathies have never been wanting in that touch of nature which makes the whole world kin. [*Cheers.*] In a sense unknown before, the present Sovereign can be justly called the Mother of her people. In the fulness of her years and of her grace those children gather around her to-day with feelings of filial devotion. [*Cheers.*] The Queen has passed through bitter sorrows, and none so great as that which took from her the wise counsellor and consort who helped to support her in the burden of her Empire. But in all her desolation she never forgot her care and her duty to the nation. [*Cheers.*] It is not for me to attempt to portray a character known and admired and loved by all. Those who have served her themselves in any capacity will ever cherish the memory of her gracious kindness, of her upright judgment, of her ripe experience and her constitutional fidelity. [*Cheers.*] Her public as her private life has been a lesson to all in every station. The first in virtue as the "first in place," she has added dignity to a mighty throne, and deserved the passionate loyalty of a free people. [*Cheers.*] She will leave to those who come after her larger dominions and a happier people; but, what is more, she will bequeath to future times the imperishable inheritance of a sovereign example. [*Loud cheers.*]

MR. JOHN DILLON (Mayo, E.), who was received with Irish cheers, said: If this Address were allowed to be passed without a word of protest it would be the act of the united Commons of Great Britain and Ireland, and no Irish representative who desired truly to speak the voice of the great mass of the Irish nation could allow it to be passed without protesting against it. [*Irish cheers and Ministerial cries of* "Oh!"] They were asked to pass the Address as part and parcel of the Jubilee and rejoicing for a reign of 60 years, which had undoubtedly brought to the inhabitants of Great Britain and her self-governing Colonies almost limitless and unbounded prosperity and cause of rejoicing; but, as he should presently show, had brought to the country for which he spoke neither prosperity nor peace, nor cause of rejoicing whatever. [*Nationalist cheers.*] If he sought justification for the course he felt bound to take on behalf of the party for which he was entitled to speak, he should find it in the words: "To assure Her Most Gracious Majesty that this House profoundly shares in the joy with which her people celebrate the most prosperous and most auspicious reign in the history of this nation." He spoke for a section of the House—[*ironical Ministerial cheers*]—and he asked how could they share in that joy while the nation that had sent them there had been denied throughout the whole of the sixty years of that reign any share in the prosperity or the liberties celebrated that day? The Irish people alone throughout the dominions and Empire of Her Majesty were denied all occasion for rejoicing. Speaking as an Irish representative, he felt bound to oppose this Address because it was part and parcel of a jubilation and rejoicing for sixty years of blessings and prosperity and liberty which had undoubtedly been enjoyed by Great Britain and her Colonies, but which had been throughout the reign persistently denied to Ireland. Paraphrasing the language of the First Lord of the Treasury in moving the Address, the Irish Nationalist Members would ill represent the vast mass of the Irish nation if they abstained from telling them frankly and honestly, and telling Her Majesty, that her Irish subjects did not rejoice, and saw no reason why they should do so. [*Nationalist cheers.*] He trusted to the catalogue given by the Leader of the Opposition of the great advances made by the populations of Great Britain and the Colonies since Her Majesty came to the Throne, and in every item of the catalogue he noticed that Ireland had gone back instead of having progressed. When the Queen ascended the Throne, Ireland had a population of eight millions. Now she had 4,500,000. Great Britain, when the Queen came to the Throne, had a population of 17 millions, now she had a population of 34 millions, while the population of Great Britain had been doubled her taxation had been reduced by one-half; while the population of Ireland had been reduced by one half, her taxation had been doubled. He turned to the greatest of all the advances which had been made by the Colonies and Great Britain during the present reign—the advancement made in public liberties. All the nation had been taken within the bounds of the Constitution, and had a voice in the Government of the country. That was the reason Great Britain was so loyal to-day. They had all been reading within the last few days the speeches of the Premiers of self-governing Colonies—Canada, New South Wales, Victoria, and New Zealand. Would the Premier of Canada have been here if Canada had been left in the same position she occupied 60 or 70 years ago? No. At the beginning of the Queen's reign Canada was in rebellion. To Canada they had given liberty, and with that she had built up a structure of prosperity. As regarded Ireland, the past sixty years had been marked, on the contrary, by a progressive denial of liberty. During the reign, 42 Coercion Acts had been passed. [*Nationalist cheers and groans.*] When the Queen came to the Throne no Minister would have dared to have stood up in that House to propose a perpetual Coercion Act for Ireland. In 1887 the Government of the day selected the fiftieth anniversary of Her Majesty's Coronation to fix round the neck of Ireland the badge of perpetual servitude. Yet they were asked to rejoice and take part in the celebration of sixty years' degradation and ruin to Ireland, and to lick the hand that had chastised them. [*Nationalist cheers and groans.*] For sixty years many thousands had been condemned to gaol as political offenders for no other reason than endeavouring to do their duty by their country. Many men had been cruelly executed under the pretence of law because they had endeavoured to defend the rights of their country. At the present moment there were lying in the gaols of this country political prisoners whom they asked the Government to release on the occasion of the Jubilee as an act of grace, in order, in some degree, to mitigate the bitterness and indignation of the Irish people, and they refused to release them, although the Czar of Russia released a thousand political prisoners when he was crowned. The reign had, moreover, been marked by the cruel, unjust, and monstrous evictions of tens of thousands of people in Ireland, and at that moment thousands of these poor creatures were starving on the roadsides. [*Ministerial cries of* "Oh!" *and Nationalist cheers.*] Through bad laws, badly administered, famine had become enterdemic, and one of the ordinary events of life. The Nationalist Party had decided that in view of the deep-seated feeling of the Irish nation, they could have neither lot nor part in passing this Address. They had decided to move no Amendment to the Address, nor could they support any Amendment, and they felt that the best method by which they could give expression to what they believed to be the feelings of the people was to vote against the adoption of the Address. To-morrow, through the streets of that great world city there would pass a mighty procession—[*Ministerial cheers*]—to celebrate what he fully and frankly acknowledged the people of this country and its Colonies were fully entitled to celebrate as a great national feast and occasion for rejoicing, and in that procession there would be representatives of their free self-governing Colonies and others loyal to Her Majesty. The Army and the Navy would be represented, and most of the Crowned Heads of Europe. How would Ireland be represented—by the Royal Irish Constabulary—[*Ministerial cheers and Nationalist cries of* "Police!"]—fitly represented by a force which had no other justification for its existence but to suppress and keep down the people of Ireland, and whose chief occupation in the past had been to assist in burning and pulling down their roof trees. They would ride close behind the carriage of the Sovereign—the only representatives of the Irish nation who would grace the procession, the only official representatives of the Irish nation. He had stated the attitude of the Nationalist Party and of the Irish nation. This was a great and mighty Empire, but Ireland, by the operations of the British Government, had been reduced to the position of an impoverished, diminished, and weak nation. They could conquer by force, and continue to keep in poverty and misery the nation to which he belonged, and for which he spoke, but they could not by Coercion Acts conquer the hearts of the Irish people or compel them to join in the present rejoicing. [*Nationalist cheers.*]

Mr. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford) said he rose to endeavour to reduce to action the sentiments to which the hon. Gentleman had just given utterance. [*Ministerial laughter.*] He had no fault to find with the pictures which had been drawn of the benefits which had accrued to the people of the Empire generally during the present reign, which would be remembered, not merely as the longest, but probably as the greatest reign in English history. The advances which had been made were undoubtedly without parallel in the story of the nations, and he did not for a moment wonder at the enthusiasm with which this Jubilee celebration was being carried out. Had he been an Englishman, a Canadian, or an Australian, he should have been only too proud of the opportunity of celebrating the increase in prosperity and freedom, but he belonged to a part of the Empire to which the blessings of prosperity and freedom had been a closed book. Much as he personally disliked uttering any jarring note which might be considered even by some friends of Ireland as ungracious or ill-timed, he felt bound in the interests of truth to say that at this moment, while other parts of the Empire were proud, prosperous, and free, Ireland stood at their door in poverty and subjection, sullen and disaffected. He knew that on such occasions as this men were naturally anxious to shut their eyes to any discreditable fact, to any black spot that might, perhaps, spoil the beauty of the picture; but this was a great historical occasion, and in the interests of truth and justice alike they were bound, as Irish representatives, to place it upon record that during the past 60 years Ireland had suffered grievously in her prosperity and liberty, and was to-day in no mood to celebrate those great blessings which had been scattered broadcast throughout the rest of the Empire. British Members might possibly be inclined to resent the introduction of this topic at all, but there was no responsible man amongst them of any party who could deny the substantial truth of what he was saying. [*Cries of* "Oh!"] In his view it was far better for England, as well as Ireland, that the truth should not be hidden. The three great achievements of this reign were, first, the extension of representative institutions and the broadening of popular liberties all over the Empire; secondly, the enormous and extraordinary increase in population and wealth, and the decrease of taxation; and, thirdly, the spread of peace and contentment amongst the subjects of the Empire. What share had Ireland had in any one of these blessings? While representative institutions had been given to the colonies, and the people of Great Britain had had their popular rights and liberties extended year by year, Ireland had been constantly subjected to exceptional and repressive legislation. As had been pointed out by the hon. Gentleman who preceded him, there had been a Coercion Act of some kind or other for Ireland; some of these Acts had suspended trial by jury; others had suppressed the freedom of speech, or of the Press, and all of them, in one shape or another, abrogated the constitution under which Ireland was supposed to live. There had been two unsuccessful insurrections, and their prisons had never for one moment been without Irish political prisoners within their walls. [*Irish cheers.*] He had hoped up to the last moment that an opportunity would have been found, as an act of grace, to release the few remaining prisoners in Portland Prison. There were only five of them left, and every man who was a leader of the conspiracy with which they were alleged to be connected had been released. At this moment in Ireland there was a statute in force under which trial by jury, personal liberty, freedom of speech and of the Press, were all vested in one man, who was absolutely irresponsible so far as the Irish people were concerned. The great mass of the people themselves were undoubtedly disaffected with the system of rule under which they lived. While this country had been prospering, Ireland had been starving; her industries were dead—killed by the legislation of that Parliament; her population had diminished by one-half; chronic famine haunted the home of her western seaboard; and one terrible visitation swept millions of her people out of existence. While the wealth of this country had quadrupled, and the taxation per head had been reduced by about two-thirds, Ireland had had no increase of wealth, her population had diminshed by four millions, and her taxation per head had been doubled. These were facts which could not be ignored, and in the name of those whom he represented he felt compelled to say that Ireland to-day stood apart altogether from the Jubilee celebration, and asked first to have her liberty restored. He begged to move, at the end of the Question, to add the words,—

"But this House represents to Her Majesty that this House deems it its duty to place upon record the fact that during the sixty years of Her Majesty's reign Ireland has suffered grievously from famine, depopulation, and poverty, and from the continued suspension of her constitutional liberties, with the result that the Irish people are to-day discontented and disaffected, and are unable to join in the celebration of the sixtieth year of Her Majesty's reign."

MR. J. O'KELLY (Roscommon, N.) said that Ireland refused to join in this celebration. When the Division on this Address took place it would be found that the whole of the National representation of Ireland had voted against it. It might be a light matter to the rest of the House that the Irish representatives should not take part in the proceedings to-morrow; but the action of the Irish Members meant more than appeared on the surface. It was a reign that when the day came, which he believed was not far distant, when they would have to fight for their Empire, the Irish Members would stand aside—[*Irish cheers*]—and some of them would not be content with standing aside. [*Renewed Irish cheers.*] The Colonies were loyal because they were free; the Irish were disloyal because they were not free, and they were proud of their disloyalty. [*Irish cheers.*] They never should be loyal—[*Ministerial laughter*]—until justice was done them —[*Irish cheers*]—and they had returned to them the liberties which by force had been taken from them. He begged to second the Amendment. [*Irish cheers.*]

COLONEL SAUNDERSON (Armagh, N.) said that in ordinary circumstances he should not have thought it worth while to detain the House, because he looked upon the Amendment as one of those recurring symptoms of chronic disloyalty that existed among a certain class of Irishmen. But this was not an ordinary occasion. It was one unique in the history of the country—he ventured to say it was unique in the history of any country in the world. The greatest Empire the world had ever seen had spontaneously manifested its devotion and loyalty to the person of the Sovereign of this country, whose reign had been so distinguished for freedom and justice. Only one jarring note occurred in this short universal hymn of praise. Only one string was out of tune, and that string was twanged by an Irish hand. Hon. Gentlemen opposite had assumed to speak in the name of the Irish nation, but he also spoke in the name, at any rate, of a very considerable portion of the Irish nation who were as loyal to the Crown as any to be found in any part of Her Majesty's wide dominions. [*Cheers.*] The hon. Gentleman who had just sat down apparently felt the difficulty of the position in which he was placed in raising this note in the midst of the general harmony. Well, he did not wonder that the hon. Gentleman felt the difficulty, for, in order to justify his action the hon. Gentleman should have had an overwhelming case to make out before the House to justify his act; but the justification of both the hon. Member for Waterford and the hon. Member for East Mayo simply consisted in broad assertions which they had never attempted to prove. [*Irish cries of dissent.*] They stated that the liberty of the subject in Ireland was curtailed and interfered with in a way that no other subjects of the Crown had to submit to; but, as a matter of fact, the liberty only was interfered with of those who desired to commit murder and crime, whilst the liberty of well-disposed citizens in Ireland was not touched in the slightest degree. [*Cheers.*] Then the hon. Members had told them that they would not take part in the Jubilee rejoicings or in the loyal Address, because they said that during the 60 years of Her Majesty's reign, Ireland had been starved and had been in misery. He contended that that was a libel upon Irishmen, and those who had asserted it had given no figures at all to prove their case. [" Hear, hear! "] Ireland, he submitted, was wealthier now that when Her Majesty came to the Throne. She was more prosperous than she had ever been, and her social condition was infinitely superior now than at any time within the present generation. When the Queen came to the Throne there were in Ireland, he believed, seven miles of railways; now there were 3,000 miles. The fact that the population had decreased in the period did not prove anything, as a large population in a small country was not usually productive of prosperity. Sixty years ago indeed Ireland was one huge congested district. Moreover, then there were only 1,384 schools, attended by 169,000 pupils, receiving a grant from Parliament of £50,000; whilst in 1895 there were 8,550 schools, with 1,018,000 pupils, and a Parliamentary grant of £1,138,000. In 1849 there was in deposit banks in Ireland a little over seven millions; now there were 39 millions; and in the Post Office Savings Bank in 1863 there were £143,000, and now there were £5,919,000. [*Cheers.*] Irish Members on the other side of the House would not join in Her Majesty's Jubilee. The only part they would take was to take tickets for the Parliamentary stand. [*Laughter.*] It was said that the population of Ireland had decreased. Well, so it had; but why blame Her Majesty or the authorities of this country for that? The reason was because the means of locomotion had been increased—[*laughter*]—and Irishmen would not stop in Ireland in a condition of comparative poverty when they could do better elsewhere. At the present time he was glad to say there were signs that the decreasing of the Irish population had ceased, and his opinion was that Ireland was on the rising grade. [" Hear, hear! "] These assertions of decreased prosperity and great starvation had no foundation whatever in fact; and he could only see in the attitude of the Irish Party a manifestation which, to his mind, need never have been made by hon. Gentlemen—a manifestation of the chronic hatred and disloyalty to this country which loyalists had always asserted, and which he thought the Irish Party had never denied. [*Cheers.*] He spoke in the name of at least one-third of the Irish people, and he ventured to say, in supporting the Address to the Crown, that he was expressing the views of men in Ireland of every creed who were the most strongly attached in their devotion to the Queen. Surely it was going out of their way for hon. Gentlemen to do this ungracious act towards a noble lady, and it was to his mind totally foreign and alien to the Irish character. [*Loud cheers.*] If they did not intend taking part in the Jubilee proceedings they should simply have remained away, being perfectly persuaded in their own minds that no one who knew them would ever accuse them of any feeling of loyalty to the Crown. [*Laughter and cheers.*] That section of the Irish people for whom he had a right to speak had, he thought, shown in the past ten years that they, at any rate, were able to hold their own. [*Cheers.*] The majority of the House would agree with him when he said—and he believed history would record it—

that had it not been for the stand taken by the Irish Loyalists, the Queen to-morrow would not have celebrated a reign over a United Empire. [*Cheers, and Nationalist laughter.*] As an Irishman, he regretted that the Amendment had been moved. As an Irish Loyalist he rejoiced at it. The only people who ever objected to his assertion of the disloyalty of hon. Members opposite were to be found in Radical ranks, and he should hope now that no one would get up and speak about the "union of hearts." ["Hear, hear!"] There had been a jarring note struck—but microscopic in dimensions—and it only tended to emphasise, to broaden, to deepen that mighty tone which had reverberated round the world, and which told the nations in unmistakable words of the unity, the solidity, and the might of the greatest and the freest Empire the world had ever seen. [*Loud cheers.*]

Question put, "That those words be there added."

The House divided: Ayes, 7; Noes, 436.—(Division List, No. 240.)

The numbers were received with loud Ministerial cheers.

The main Question having been put from the Chair, a Division was challenged by the Nationalist Members.

The House divided:—Ayes, 459; Noes, 44.—(Division List, No. 241.)

Resolved, That an humble Address be presented to Her Majesty, to congratulate Her Majesty on the auspicious completion of the sixtieth year of Her happy reign, and to assure Her Majesty that this House profoundly shares the great joy with which Her people celebrate the longest, the most prosperous, and the most illustrious reign in their history, joining with them in praying earnestly for the continuance during many years of Her Majesty's life and health.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY moved, "That the said Address be presented to Her Majesty by the whole House."

MR. J. J. CLANCY (Dublin Co. N.): After what has taken place this Motion is an absurdity, for it is quite plain that Members representing Nationalist constituencies will not take part in the presentation of this Address. Therefore a Motion declaring that the whole House presents this Address would amount to an absolute untruth. If the Motion is not amended to meet this objection, I shall certainly vote against it.

*MR. SPEAKER put the Question, and the Nationalist Members challenged a Division.

Question put a second time.

*MR. SPEAKER stated that he thought the Ayes had it; and on his decision being challenged, it appeared to him that the Division was frivolously claimed, and he directed the Noes to stand up in their places.

All the Irish Members present on the Opposition side having risen,

*MR. SPEAKER named Tellers for a Division.

The House divided:—Ayes, 411; Noes, 41.—(Division List, No. 242.)

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY moved,—

"That such Members of this House as are of Her Majesty's most honourable Privy Council do humbly know Her Majesty's pleasure when she will be attended by this House with the said Address."

Motion agreed to.

SIR J. FERGUSSON (Manchester, N.E.): May I ask you, Mr. Speaker, as a great difference of opinion exists in the House on the subject, what dress hon. Members are expected to wear on the occasion of this Address being presented? I should also like to ask you for your advice, and for the expression of your wish as to whether hon. Members should proceed to the Palace in carriages or on foot?

*MR. SPEAKER: As it is more than 36 years since an Address was presented to Her Majesty by the whole House, perhaps it would be convenient if I were to refer to the two points raised by the right hon. Baronet's Question. [*Cheers.*] As regards dress, I understand it is usual for Members to go to the Palace in morning dress, except that Privy Councillors usually wear levée dress. As regards the mode of arriving at the Palace, shortly after prayers I shall proceed through St. Stephen's Hall and Westminster Hall to New Palace Yard, followed by hon. Members, and thence drive at a walking pace to Buckingham Palace. I believe it has been usual for the bulk of hon. Members to follow on foot. [*Cheers.*] Those hon. Members, however, who wear levée dress frequently go in carriages. Of course, all hon. Members are at liberty if they choose to use carriages. I may add that going on foot very materially facilitates the ingress to and egress from the Palace. After Her Majesty has received the Address I shall return directly to the House and report to the House Her Majesty's gracious answer to the Address. Afterwards, in accordance with the Motion about to be put, I shall adjourn the House at once without question put.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY moved,—

"That this House at its rising do adjourn till Wednesday next, that on Wednesday the House do meet at a Quarter past Two of the clock, and that Mr. Speaker, so soon as he has reported Her Majesty's gracious answer to the Address, do adjourn the House without question put."

Motion agreed to.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY moved,—

"That, for the remainder of the Session, Government business do have precedence on Tuesday and Wednesday (except on Wednesday, June 30, and Wednesday, July 7), and that the provisions of Standing Order 56 be extended to the other days of the week."

He said the Motion would hardly require justification to the minds of hon. Members who had followed the course of business during the present Session. They had reached a period of the Session at which it was usual for the Government to take the time of the House. With reference to the two Wednesdays which were excepted in the Resolution, he reminded the House that, by the Standing Orders, privileges were given on Wednesdays to private Bills which had made a certain amount of progress during the earlier part of the Session, and it seemed to him that the Standing Order would be entirely stultified if the exceptions in question were not allowed. He thought, however, the justice of the case would be met and precedent followed if the two Wednesdays named were put aside. That, he hoped, would be sufficient justification to hon. Members both for the time the Government proposed to take and that which they did not propose to take, and without further preface he begged to move the Motion which stood in his name.

MR. CRILLY (Mayo, N.) asked whether the Committee stages of those private Bills would be taken as well as the Third Reading?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY said the Government had no control over the Bills which would be put down. That depended on the Standing Order, the whole matter being automatically arranged.

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND) [GRANTS].

Considered in Committee.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire) moved,—

"That it is expedient to authorise the payment, out of moneys to be provided by Parliament, (a) of an addition to the grant payable to School Boards in Scotland under the proviso to Section 67 of the Education (Scotland) Act, 1872, by increasing the sum of seven shillings and sixpence therein mentioned by fourpence for every complete penny by which the School Rate therein mentioned exceeds threepence, provided that the said sum as so increased shall not exceed sixteen shillings and sixpence; (b) of an Aid Grant to Voluntary Schools in Scotland not exceeding three shillings per child for the whole number of children in average attendance in those schools."

The right hon. Gentleman said: At the time the two Bills were passed dealing with education in England, the Chancellor of the Exchequer said provision would be made for an analogous purpose in the case of Scotland. Consequently this Resolution was the foundation for the Bill dealing with this subject which I can explain briefly. It embraces one Bill, whereas there were two Bills in the case of England. The 67th Clause of the Education Act of 1872, which dealt with the case of what may be called necessitous Board Schools—necessitous because the rate did not produce very much—is really exactly a similar clause to that in the English Act. Accordingly this Bill proposes, in the case of Scotland, to give precisely the same advantage as in the case of England—that is to say, where the 3d. rate does not amount to a total of £20, or an average of 7s. 6d. per child, there is to be a sliding scale by the sum of 4d. for every complete 1d., but not beyond the maximum of 16s. 6d. The whole matter is so fresh in the memory of the Committee in the discussion on the English Bill that I need not say any more. It is a sliding scale precisely the same as in the English Bill. I come to the second part; it is giving the same aid to Voluntary Schools in Scotland. The Voluntary Schools in Scotland do not occupy the same position as in England in regard to mangement, but it was felt that they also were entitled to be treated in an analogous way to England. The Committee will notice that the sum asked is a capitation grant of 3s. per head per child, whereas in the English Bill it was 5s. That difference is due to the fact that the Scottish child gets 2s. more than an English child. Let hon. Members dismiss from their minds what children earn under the Code—that is another question altogether. We are here dealing with the fee grant for free education. I may recall to the Committee what is the history of this question. The history is this. In 1889, when a certain amount of local taxation was intercepted and handed to local bodies in England, a corresponding sum, which was calculated at 11 to 80 was handed to Scotland, and was devoted to education. The calculation at that time was made according to the amount of money which was got. It was found that, taking the attendance as it was, and the amount of money available, it allowed a capitation grant of 12s. per head. The education at that time was not freed in all the standards. In 1891, when another provision was made, and an additional sum of £40,000, which was calculated, not as a balance, but as a fixed sum, was handed to Scotland to free the other two standards, we came to the situation that existed before there had been free education granted to England, and the provision of free education had been made upon the calculation of 10s. per head. In 1892, by the Education Local Taxation Act, there was effected a change between these two moneys. The money available used for the purpose of education under the Act of 1889 was diverted and applied to other purposes, such as to County Councils, and for purposes of general utility. After certain fluctuations as to practice, into which I need not go. Scotland now gets from the Imperial Exchequer precisely what England gets. We get a capitation grant of 10s.; but then hon. Members will remember that in the meantime there was the sum of £40,000, and certain savings out of the balances that had accumulated under the Act of 1889, so that *de facto* the Scottish child has always been getting 12s. I am glad to state we have persuaded my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer to say that for the future that shall go on, although it is not in the Bill. I cannot avoid touching on that, because it is part of the whole policy of the Government. The right hon. Gentleman has assured us for the future this 12s. shall be paid, and over and above we shall get such sum as will enable us to go on paying the 12s. You must take it as a matter of fact that a Scottish child gets 2s. more than the children in the Voluntary Schools in England. I hope hon. Members from this will understand the Bill, which they will be better able to criticise when they see it.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs) said the right hon. Gentleman had omitted one fact of considerable interest, the amount of money to the Board and Voluntary Schools.

THE LORD ADVOCATE said the total estimated grant under the new

Necessitous Board Schools schemes would be £42,000. The present grant was about £13,000, so there would be an increase of over £28,000. The 3s. grant to the Voluntary Schools would be a little over £12,000. The cost of keeping up the 12s. capitation grant would come to about £26,000.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN said, of course, as the right hon. Gentleman had said, it was very difficult for Members to judge of the scheme until they could see the Bill in print, and with all the right hon. Gentleman's usual clearness, and the knowledge Members should have of what took place four or five years ago, it was a little difficult to follow the statement. Therefore he wished to reserve entirely the expression of his opinion on the merits of the scheme. But of one thing there could be no doubt, the amount was not so large as the Scottish people expected to receive on this occasion. ["Hear!"] It might be true that the Chancellor of the Exchequer, with the ingenuity of those who would assist him at the Treasury, would make out that Scotland was receiving more than she ought to receive, but Scotchmen started with a view of the question from the other side. Scotland had always been ahead of England in this matter of education, spending more money proportionally on, and requiring more money for, education. They wished to avoid in Scotland playing down, so to speak to the English level, and he hoped above all that in any calculations made it had not been put against their side of the account that Scottish children had earned more under similar conditions than English children had. He had seen the question sometimes treated in this manner; but their view of the matter was that if their children did earn more under similar conditions than English children, it was because of greater zeal in learning and greater attention in teaching.

THE LORD ADVOCATE said they did earn more, but the fact did not enter into the figures he had given.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN was glad to hear that, but it did sometimes figure in argument, and was used to add to the moral weight of objections to Scotland's claim. As he had said, at this stage of the proceedings they could do very little. They had received the explanation, which would be considered by Scottish representatives and all interested in the matter in Scotland, and when they came to see the Bill in print they would be better able to judge how far the scheme would be beneficial and adequate for its purpose. There had been expectations in Scotland that the grant for education would be larger on this occasion. No one could say of the proposal that it was a Jubilee gift to the cause of Scottish education. They would have been glad to have seen a much larger sum, and in saying that he believed he could include Scottish opinion without reference to party politics. Education was the one subject upon which the Scottish people were entirely united and had been for generations or even centuries, and from which politics were excluded. There was rivalry among all sections in favour of higher education for the youth of Scotland, and it was not simply because the proposal came from Her Majesty's Government that he gave indication of the objection that would arise. But they would see what the scheme was when they had the Bill in print, and he now contented himself with expressing the dissatisfaction he was sure would be felt in Scotland.

SIR C. CAMERON (Glasgow, Bridgeton) said there was some difficulty in understanding what the entire sum amounted to.

THE LORD ADVOCATE repeated the figures, £66,450.

SIR C. CAMERON said it was desirable there should be some further explanation of the differential treatment of denominational schools. The right hon. Gentleman had explained the reasons why they were not to get the 5s. grant given in England; but he doubted very much whether those reasons would be considered adequate. He was against the principle of the endowment of denominational schools; but if the grant was to be made for dealing with this matter, which was not so much a burning question as it was in England, then it would be much more statesmanlike to deal with it in such a manner as would satisfy those who were in favour of denominational education and not in a less generous manner than it had been dealt with in England. No doubt very considerable attention would be directed to that part of the proposition, and it appeared to him that £66,000 was an amount very considerably below what Scotland would be entitled to on the basis of an equivalent grant.

Dr. CLARK (Caithness) was disappointed with the statement of the Lord Advocate, and thought the right hon. Gentleman had scarcely been accurate as to the facts. So far as the question of equivalency was concerned, only one method of computation had been followed until the present Government came into power, and made a change. In every one of the Acts passed, in every one of the grants given from the time they had assisted education until the present Government came into power Scotland always got 11-80ths of the English grant, and there had been no fluctuation at all; every grant was based on the original Act of 11-80ths; but if now a change was to be made by the present Government without any Act of Parliament, but as a matter of administration, then Scotland should get back all she had lost in the past by the system hitherto followed. Scotland had always received 11-80ths, because it was very much less than 10s. a head would have been; but as a result of English Education Votes growing so fast, 11-80ths was more than 10s. per child in Scotland would be, and now the Government proposed to give 10s. a head because the amount would be about £5,000 less than under the 11-80ths. If the system must be so charged, then Scotland should receive some £30,000 or £40,000 of which she had been robbed under the old Acts. There had been one system under three Governments, and now when the result would be bad for Scotland, a change was proposed, and in the usual way the Treasury was trying to "chisel" Scotland. The Voluntary Schools so called in Scotland, were, outside the Catholic Schools, a miserably small minority. A splendid thing was done for education when the Church of Scotland and the Free Church handed over their schools to the School Boards. There were possibly some 80 or 90 Episcopal schools and some 250 Catholic schools, the Board Schools numbering between 2,000 and 3,000. The position was wholly different to that in England, and yet it was proposed to apply the same principle. Of course it was usual for the predominant partner to rob its weaker Scotch partner. By an equivalent grant Scotland would receive much more than under the grant to Voluntary Schools. He did not know to what extent the Necessitous School Boards' Bill would affect Scotland. Probably outside the unfortunate necessitous districts Scotland would not be affected at all. The explanation of the Lord Advocate was very unsatisfactory. The Treasury was again trying to rob Scotland by the change from the 11-80ths. When 10s. a head was given in England, Scotch Members contended for the same for Scotland; but in 1888-9 the Treasury refused this, because the amount would have been a few thousands more, and began the system of equivalent grants; but now when that system was to the advantage of Scotland, the Treasury proposed to change it. On the Second Reading of the Bill, discussion would expose the unfairness of the proposal.

*The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER (Sir Michael Hicks Beach, Bristol, W.) desired a few words of explanation in reply to the accusation that the Treasury was proposing to rob Scotland. The system of equivalent grants for free education had been found impracticable from the beginning. Scotch Members objected to it, and said it would be better to have the same grant as in England, 10s. per child. As years went on it was found almost impossible to calculate what the fee grant would be in Scotland, for the system led to the absurd result that the amount Scotland received for free education was based not on Scotch necessities, not on the number of children in schools in Scotland, but on the number of children in English schools, and as it was impossible to know how many children had attended schools in England until after the close of the year, so nobody could tell the amount to which Scotland would be entitled until it was too late to pay. When the Government came into office he looked carefully into the matter, consulted with his colleagues, took the advice of the Law Officers, and came to the conclusion to adopt the principle of giving to Scotland and England the same grant of 10s. per child.

So that in the current year, and in future, what Scotland would receive for the fee grant would be what her children earned, and nothing would depend upon England. The hon. Member for Caithness said that in doing this they were cheating Scotland out of what she was entitled to. They had done nothing of the kind. They had undertaken to do for Scotland what they had done for Ireland—namely, to hand over to Scotch education as much as Scotland would have received if 10s. per child had been the basis adopted since the Free Education Act; and further, having adopted the basis of the necessary expenditure for education in Scotland rather than that of an equivalent grant with regard to Free Education, they had also adopted it in regard to this Bill. As his right hon. Friend had explained, they had adopted the identical clause with regard to necessitous Board Schools which had been passed for England, and they had adopted the clause with regard to Voluntary Schools with the exception that they had given 3s. per head instead of 5s. for the reason which the Lord Advocate had explained.

DR. CLARK: There are practically no Voluntary Schools in Scotland.

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER said that might be so, but why were they required to do more for Scotland than had been done for England? It was not a question of equivalent grants at all. It was a question of dealing with a system of education and paying what was necessary for the education of the children. That was the system which had been adopted with regard to free education, and it was the only system, he ventured to say, on which it would be found practically possible to work. If hon. Members for Scotland thought it was not well that this money should be devoted to this purpose, that was another matter altogether on which it was not his business to dwell; but he thought his right hon. Friend would be perfectly able to defend his Bill. As far as regarded the amount of the grant, he ventured to contend that the history of the Free Education Act had shown that the basis of equivalent grants, as applied to education, was practically and absolutely impossible—["hear hear!"]—and that the only way in which the matter could properly be dealt with was the basis which they had adopted in this Bill of enacting for Scotland, if it were right to enact for Scotland, what had been enacted for England and paying the cost of it.

MR. J. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.) said he would not follow the Chancellor of the Exchequer into the very interesting history of the fee grant and the way in which the system of equivalent grants had been proved to be misapplicable to it. If he did, he should probably be obliged to admit with him that there was grave doubt as to the way in which it worked; but he did not think that that really met at all the objection entertained to the proposal of the Government. What were the facts of the case? The proposal of the Government was to apply what was called an identic method to Scotland and England—that was to say, to give them the same grant under similar terms which was given to necessitous Board Schools in England under the Act of this Session, and similarly to give a grant to Voluntary Schools in England. Under this proposal, as he understood from the Lord Advocate, Scotland would receive £40,000 more than she received now. If she received the money under the principle of the equivalent grant, she would have received £110,000. ["Hear, hear!"] The total sum which he believed was payable under the two English Acts of this Session was, in the case of one, a little more than £600,000, and in the case of the other, about £200,000 a year. That was a little more than £800,000. On the principle of 80 to 11, that would give to Scotland £110,000. It would at once strike the Committee that there must be some reason for this curious disparity in the operation of the identical principle. There must be some curious cause at work introducing a difference between education in England and in Scotland to account for the great differences between £110,000 and £40,000. There was such a phenomenon. It was this, that more than half the children in English elementary schools were educated in Voluntary Schools, and that a mere handful of the children in Scotch elementary schools were educated in Voluntary Schools. The enormous mass of Scotch children were educated in Board Schools, and therefore they had the result that a grant which would have been £110,000 if the countries had been alike, was scaled down to a grant of £40,000, because the countries were different. That was what, to their mind, appeared to produce a practical injustice. ["Hear hear!"] It was a practical injustice owing to the fact that Scotland preferred the Board School system and England so far contented herself with what was mainly a voluntary system. The result of the difference was that the Scotch taxpayer contributed to the education of England a proportion of £800,000, and the English taxpayer contributed to the education of Scotland only £40,000. It was clear, therefore, that that inflicted upon the taxpayers of Scotland a very severe financial injustice. The identity of treatment which the Lord Advocate spoke of, although it promised much to the eye and ear, fulfilled nothing in reality. It was in point of fact treatment which was identic only in name, because the circumstances of the two countries were so different that apparent equality produced substantial injustice. ["Hear, hear!"]

Mr. PARKER SMITH (Lanark, Partick) said he was afraid this proposal would be regarded in Scotland as extremely unsatisfactory. For his part he had no love whatever for the equivalent grant, but they must have some sort of justice in the amount of the grant, even though the kind of machinery which was tried in the first place had turned out to be quite unsatisfactory. There was a great deficiency in what, he thought, the people of Scotland might expect to receive in correspondence with what had been given to English education. There had already been pointed out the very great difference in position of the Voluntary Schools in Scotland and in England, and that the grant to Voluntary Schools in Scotland would be almost entirely a sectional grant. Except perhaps in the case of the Roman Catholic, the Voluntary Schools in Scotland were not, as in England, regarded as an institution to which the people were greatly attached, and he though the expenditure upon them would be by no means regarded in Scotland as being a satisfactory way of disposing of a portion of their share of the equivalent grant. There were other forms of education for which they very greatly wanted money, even if they got all their 12s. They had been ahead of England in the expenditure of money upon education, and they very badly wanted money in respect of higher education, and in respect of secondary and technical education. They ought to receive in correspondence with the grant to England a larger amount of money, which could and would be spent with very great advantage on secondary and technical education.

Mr. J. CALDWELL (Lanark, Mid) said there would be a general feeling of dissatisfaction in Scotland with regard to the amount. There could be no question whatever that in this matter Scotland was entitled to 11-80ths of the English share of the grant, which would have given them a sum of £100,000. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had referred to the 10s. grant per head which was given in 1892. At that time he strongly contended that Scotland ought to get 10s. per head the same as in England, which would have given them £4,000 or £5,000 a year more. The then Chancellor of the Exchequer objected and said the proper principle was the equivalent grant, which gave them £4,000 or £5,000 less. Then they got free Education in England which swelled up the attendance so considerably that the balance was changed, and the result would have been that Scotland, paid on the equivalent grant principle, would have got £4,000 or £5,000 more. But when that principle turned in favour of Scotland the Treasury said they would give 10s. per head the same as they gave in England. He had no doubt the Chancellor of the Exchequer would be just enough to give Scotland what was her due notwithstanding the change of principle, but he was pointing out what was the effect of the change of principle. With regard to the Voluntary Schools in Scotland, he would point out that they got the 12s. grant at this moment, but they were not getting more than 10s. per head out of the Imperial Exchequer, the other 2s. coming out of Scotch money pure and simple. He thought a word must be said in favour of these Voluntary Schools in Scotland. With regard to the Voluntary Schools, a word must be said in their favour. The circumstances under which they had to compete in Scotland were essentially different from the circumstances in England. For instance, the compulsory standard was the fifth all over Scotland. Then the age at which children must attend school was 14 in Scotland as against 13 in England. Was it not obvious, therefore, that Voluntary Schools in Scotland had more children to educate than similar schools in England? Why in England one-fourth of the school children—1,300,000—were infants; and then they had but a small proportion of older children. But in Scotland the children had to remain until they were 14 or had passed the fifth standard; so that the average number of older boys and girls in Scotch Voluntary Schools was much larger, and the expense was much greater per head. Both in the Board Schools and in the Voluntary Schools, the cost was higher than in England, owing to the higher age and the higher standard, and the necessity for keeping up a superior staff. Then mark this difference. In England the education given was elementary—the word "elementary" was in their Act; but in Scotland it was not merely elementary education, it was an education that fitted for the University. That being so, the English schools being purely elementary and the Scotch giving secondary education in every parish school, the Voluntary Schools had to compete with them, and how could they compete if they were not to be paid at least the same rate per scholar as in England, where the schools were doing purely elementary work? They ought, at least, to get the 5s. per head given in England, because relatively the present 12s. which came to them was not so much as the 10s. presented to the elementary schools in England. The sum of money they ought to get would be altogether about £110,000, that would be the sum Scotland ought to get as a fair equivalent for what was given to England out of the Imperial purse. For, after all, what were they doing? They were taking money out of the Imperial purse, to which Scotland contributed as well as England. It was admitted that Scotland contributed 11-80ths to the Imperial purse; and if they were going to give a certain dole to England on the one side, Scotland must get an equivalent dole on the other. And then the money should be applied in the way most suited to Scotland's educational interests, having regard to her special circumstances. For these reasons he certainly complained that the money given to Scotland, the total sum, was grossly inadequate; and then, as regarded the Voluntary Schools, he said that under the peculiar circumstances under which the Voluntary Schools were placed, they ought to get the 5s. a head as in England. As to other points in the Bill, he, of course, reserved his criticism until it was printed. All he dealt with at present was the financial question, the fact that they were only getting about £66,000, according to the official statement, but according to their own statement only £40,000; and that, even if they did get £66,000, it was a long way short of the £110,000 which was Scotland's equivalent.

THE LORD ADVOCATE said the principle of a proportional equivalent grant had really nothing to do with the question of education. He could not allow the figures of the hon. Member for Aberdeen to pass unchallenged, because if they took his point of view of an equivalent grant they would have to take the same view of the whole situation. The hon. Member for Aberdeen drew this fancy picture. He said the cost to the Imperial taxpayer under the English Bill was so much, and the equivalent under a Scotch Bill ought to be £110,000, but they were being given only £40,000. The hon. Member had exaggerated, because if they took the 11-80ths of the cost under the English Bill it would be £80,000, not £110,000. [Mr. BRYCE: "Both Bills!"] Then he said, "You are only giving us £40,000." To that must be added £26,000, which was given—outside the Bill, no doubt, but it was given all the same—to keep up the grant to 12s. The hon. Member who had just spoken did not seem to know that the money out of which that 2s. was paid was now exhausted, and accordingly, if the Chancellor of the Exchequer did nothing for them, they would not be able in future to pay the Scotch schools more than the 10s. per child which they now got directly, as in England. The additional 2s. had been paid in the past out of savings on the probable grant. But these savings were now eaten up, so that unless they got this £20,000 in the future from the Chancellor of the

Exchequer they could not make up the grant. But there was also this view of the case. If they complained from the point of view of the Scotch taxpayer, that so much was being contributed out of the Imperial purse and the Scotch equivalent of that was £100,000, then they must take a view of the whole situation—they must look at the whole of the grant. They would find that the Scotch child earned 2s. 7d. more than the English. He had not worked out the capital sum that represented, but it was enough to show that the picture drawn by the hon. Member for Aberdeen was not a true picture of the whole situation.

MR. CALDWELL said the reason why the Scotch child earned more than the English child was because he was an older child, and there were more in the upper standards. He wondered whether the Lord Advocate would work out this problem—it was worth working out; namely, what would be the effect of applying to Scotland the English mode of distributing the grant? Take the Scotch mode and apply it to England, and find out what the effect of that would be? He thought they would find they would come off the worse. Let him give one illustration. They had two scales—a junior and a senior. Well, in the case of England only one-quarter of the children were paid for on the lower scale, and the other three-quarters were paid for on the higher. In the case of Scotland, on the other hand, only one-third of the children were paid for on the higher scale against three-quarters in England. It was all very well to say that the Scotch child earned 2s. 7d. more than the English? But at what sacrifices? The child had to attend school until 14 years of age, and the parent was deprived of his labour until that age. He was sure that if England would rise to the occasion and keep her children at school longer, and let them earn higher grants, there was not a single Scotchman who would object to England getting more money if she made the same sacrifices Scotland was already making. The Scotch ratepayers were paying more money than the English per head. The figures were £2 5s. per head in the case of English Board Schools, omitting the Metropolis; and £2 9s. per head in Scotch. So that the Scotch ratepayer was paying 4s. more per head, even if the children did earn 2s. 7d. more. Both ratepayers and parents in Scotland were thus making sacrifices. Let them apply the English scale to Scotland, and they would willingly accept it; for he was quite sure they would make a great deal more money under it than they did under the Scotch scale.

MR. SOUTTAR (Dumfriesshire) said he was sorry that nothing was to be done for a form of technical education to which he attached great importance, namely, agricultural research. He had thought that the Scotch Office was alive to the great desire there was in Scotland, especially in some of the counties, that there should be a better system of agricultural research. There had been a certain amount of correspondence. He himself had had the privilege of seeing the Secretary for Scotland once or twice on the subject, and he certainly thought that there was an idea of devoting a certain sum of money—£6,000 or £7,000 a year—to that purpose. Such an expenditure would be most remunerative, it would return itself a hundredfold to the Scotch farmer and landowner, and he did hope, therefore, that at the eleventh hour there might be a possibility of applying a certain sum to the purpose he had mentioned.

Resolution to be reported upon Thursday.

CONGESTED DISTRICTS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Order for Second Reading read.

*MR. J. G. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty) remarked that he congratulated the Government on the introduction of this Bill, and now, having had an opportunity of reading it, he again desired to express his thanks to the Government for this attempt to do something for the Highlands. He would, however, warn the Government that it would not settle the Highland question. The people wanted to be reinstated on the lands which were occupied by their forefathers, and which were now used for deer and sheep. According to the Report of the Deer Forests Commission, there were nearly 2,000,000 acres of land in the Highland crofting counties suitable for the occupation of crofters, cottars, and fishermen. He had no objection to deer, but let them go to the crags and mountain tops, and let the fertile valleys be occupied by men. Large as the scope of this Bill was, it required powers the absence of which would tend to make it unworkable so far as the extension of holdings was concerned. It contained no compulsory powers for the acquisition of land, but it introduced the cumbrous and costly machinery of the Lands Clauses Acts. The want of compulsory powers in the Irish Act had seriously affected the usefulness of the Irish Congested Districts Board. He referred to the Irish Board because this Bill was founded on the Irish Congested Districts Act. The Commissioners under this Bill would have their hands tied in the case of an unwilling seller. Take, for example, the island of Lewis, with its population of nearly 30,000 living under the most difficult conditions under one proprietor who might be unwilling to sell. Only last autumn, when in Lewis, the hon. Member introduced to the proprietor a deputation of County Councillors and other leading inhabitants of the island who were desirous that land should be provided for the creation of fishing villages in the neighbourhood of the bays where fish abounded, as well as for sites for cottars, and the extension of crofters' holdings. The proprietor of the island declined, however, to meet the difficulty. The result was that while under the Public Health (Scotland) Bill, which would shortly become law, numerous Black houses in the island would be condemned, no land would be available for the erection of new dwellings, or for the accommodation of cottars, who were crowded on to the parent croft. Were they, asked the hon. Member, going to migrate these fishermen to the mainland, and away from the rich fishing grounds around the island where they earned their livelihood? For want of compulsory powers to obtain land, the Congested Districts Board would be foiled on the very threshold of their work. Would the Lord Advocate consider the advisability of providing a remedy to meet this glaring defect in the Bill? Another point which he concluded to be an oversight was that the Bill did not provide for telegraph guarantees as in the Irish Congested Districts Act. The Scottish Fishery Board Reports urged the need of telegraph extensions to aid the development of the fishing industry. Seeing that the Bill provided for the development of the fishing industry, it was essential that it should give the Commissioners of the Board power to guarantee telegraph extensions, since the Post Office and Treasury absolutely refused to provide telegraph extensions without guarantee. It was true that under the postal reforms, for which they were indebted to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Postmaster General, these guarantees were reduced by one half. Poor fishermen could not, even under these improved conditions, provide the necessary guarantees. Clause 6 said that repayments were to be made by half-yearly instalments of loan and interest. He frankly told the Lord Advocate this would be simply an impossibility. Time must be given to the crofter, cottar, and fisherman to obtain the natural increase of his stock and crops, and he would suggest that no payment be demanded until the expiration of, say, the first two or three years. With regard to the constitution of the Board, two of the proposed members, the Chairman of the Local Government Board and the Chairman of the Fishery Board, were located in Edinburgh. These gentlemen could not spend, say, eight or ten days in travelling to and from remote parts of Lewis, Harris, the Uists, or Barra—the very districts where congestion was most keenly felt. He suggested that all the three crofter Commissioners should be members of the Board, and he did so because these gentlemen had a thorough practical knowledge of the grievances of the Highland people, every acre of land in all the crofting counties, and the value of land in the respective districts. The two unknown men to be nominated by the Secretary for Scotland—where were they to be found? Where would you find a practical man who would give his time to travel, say through the island of Lewis, with purely disinterested motives? The practical work could not be done in either an Edinburgh or London office. The Chairman of both the Local Government Board and Fishery Board might be appointed as advisory members, but if these gentlemen were to be members of the Board, he thought the other two crofter Commissioners should also be added. The Board would thus consist of nine members, as in the case of the Irish Board. That Board had to deal with 3,608,569 acres, whereas the Congested Districts (Scotland) Board would have to deal with 9,005,038 acres. One more point he would ask—that provision be made in the Bill for the unexpended balance in each year not to be returned to the Treasury, but to be retained for the use of the Board. He had pointed out these defects in the Bill, which he hoped would be considered and remedied by the Lord Advocate, so that this effort on the part of the Government might be workable, and tend to make the lot of the Highlander somewhat brighter, better, and happier than it had been during many years.

Mr. T. SHAW (Hawick Burghs) gave the Bill his cordial commendation and support. The objects of the Measure were praiseworthy in the highest degree. He congratulated the Lord Advocate upon making a composite Commission of much experience in Scotland. As he understood the objects of the Measure, they were to have the experience and wisdom of three large Boards—the Local Government Board, the Fishery Board, and the Crofters Commission—and he thought the result would be satisfactory. He viewed, however, with some apprehension Section 5, which contained the provision for the acquisition of land. The substantial taking of land would form the key to the success or failure of the Bill as a whole. But Section 5 was practically an optional and not a compulsory taking of land. If a proprietor in the Highlands was willing to sell, all that Section 5 did was to give a means by which the arbitration should proceed under the Lands Clauses Act. Upon that point he hoped the Government would listen to an appeal which he now ventured to make. He asked them to produce some clause or clauses that would give compulsory power for taking land for the purposes of this Bill. The safety of such taking was well assured. The taking of land would be in the present case at the instance of a composite and great public Board for the great public weal of a large part of Scotland, and in these circumstances he thought the Government should take a stronger line than they had taken, and affirm by statutory enactment that such Board, finding themselves in a position to declare that the land was required, should have the power to put down its foot and say to a recalcitrant proprietor that he must concede to what was for the public weal in regard to this matter of land. He approved the purposes of the Bill and of the constitution of the Board it was proposed to set up, but he would beseech the Government to consider whether they could not strengthen and tighten up Section 5 of the Bill, so as to make the aspirations of the Highlanders for more land operative by statute.

Mr. CALDWELL agreed that the weak point of the Bill was that it contained no provision for the compulsory acquisition of land. It provided for the migration of crofters from one point to another, but it did not provide for the compulsory purchase of land. It was perfectly well known that in the districts affected by the Measure, the land was owned by one or two proprietors. They had thus power to prevent any migration of crofters, because, the Bill being of a voluntary and not of a compulsory character, they might decline to sell their land. He quite admitted that the present Government had done a deal to alleviate the condition of the Highlands, and he perfectly approved of what they had done to open up the means of communication by light railways in the Highlands. It had given the people an opportunity of earning a livelihood by developing their own districts. That was not charity, but it was a policy which enabled all classes of the community to participate in the benefit of money that was coming out of the Imperial purse. It appeared to him that the present Bill departed from that policy, and that it was too much of the nature of a charity or dole. It gave money for the purchase of seed and for the erection of fishermen's houses and other purposes. But how could they build fishermen's houses if they had no compulsory powers to enable them to acquire land? He considered the Government ought to make the power of acquiring land compulsory and not voluntary.

The LORD ADVOCATE hoped the House would now let the Bill be Read a Second time. The points raised by hon. Members would be met.

Read a Second time, and committed for Thursday.

POLICE (PROPERTY) BILL.

Read a Second time, and committed for Thursday.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES (METRIC SYSTEM) BILL.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. C. T. RITCHIE, Croydon) moved the Second Reading of this Bill, which, he said, was a small Bill, not intended to interfere with the existing system but to remove hindrances to trade.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis) opposed the Bill.

Bill Read a Second time, and committed to the Standing Committee on Trade, Etc.

POST OFFICE (SITES) BILL.

Read a Second time.

On the Motion "That the Bill be committed to a Select Committee of five Members, three to be nominated by the House, and two by the Committee of Selection,"

MR. GIBSON BOWLES objected to the Bill being referred to any other Committee than that of the whole House. It traversed and partly repealed an important part of the existing law with regard to the acquisition of land by the Post Office. The existing law provided that, after notice given, the Treasury should hold an inquiry, and if satisfied might introduce a Bill. But under this Bill, although notices had been issued and objections made, no inquiry need be held. Moreover, Clause 9 of the Bill proposed in set terms that the Post Office should be exempted from the Metropolitan Building Act. The Bill also proposed to deal with the "Postman's Park," and to deal with it in a manner involving financial considerations and assumptions which he believed to be entirely wrong.

MR. EDWARD BOND (Nottingham, E.) said he wished to support the views of the hon. Member for King's Lynn, especially as to the Postman's Park. By that part of the Bill the interests of the City Parochial Trustees, of whom he was one, were gravely affected.

*MR. SPEAKER said the hon. Member's remarks hardly bore on the Question before the House. If the Bill were referred to a Select Committee it would afterwards come before a Committee of the whole House in the ordinary way, when the hon. Member would have an opportunity for his remarks.

MR. HANBURY said he intended in Committee to withdraw Clause 9, to which his hon. Friend the Member for King's Lynn had referred. It was introduced rather by accident than design. The portion of the Bill relating to the Postman's Park undoubtedly dealt with certain legal questions between the Post Office and the City Parochial Trustees, and he had arranged that it should be withdrawn on the distinct understanding that the trustees should not build on the vacant site until there had been an opportunity to consider the matter during the Recess.

Motion agreed to.

Ordered, That all petitions against the Bill presented five clear days before the meeting of the Committee be referred to the Committee; that the petitioners praying to be heard by themselves, their counsel, or agents, be heard against the Bill, and counsel heard in support of the Bill.

Ordered, That the Committee have power to send for persons, papers, and records.

Ordered, That three be the quorum.—(*Mr. Hanbury.*)

ISLE OF MAN (CHURCH BUILDING ACTS) BILL [H.L].

Second Reading deferred till Thursday.

SUPPLY [28TH MAY] REPORT.

Order Read for further consideration of postponed Resolution:—

> "That a sum, not exceeding £132,859, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1898, for the salaries and expenses of the Office of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade and Subordinate Departments."

Resolution agreed to.

SUPPLY [18TH JUNE].

Resolutions reported;

CIVIL SERVICES ESTIMATES, 1897-8.

CLASS VI.

1. "That a sum, not exceeding £273,781, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1898, for superannuation, retired, and compassionate allowances and gratuities under sundry Statutes, and for compassionate allowances and gratuities awarded by the Treasury, and for the salaries of medical referees."

2. "That a sum, not exceeding £2,350, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1898, for certain pensions to masters and seamen of the Merchant Service, and to their widows and children."

3. "That a sum, not exceeding £813, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1898, for certain miscellaneous charitable and other allowances in Great Britain."

CLASS VII.

4. "That a sum, not exceeding £19,923, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1898, for the salaries and other expenses of temporary Commissions and Committees, including special inquiries."

5. "That a sum, not exceeding £3,279, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1898, for certain miscellaneous expenses."

CLASS II.

6. "That a sum, not exceeding £60,672, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1898, for the salaries and expenses in the Department of Her Majesty's Treasury and subordinate Departments."

7. "That a sum, not exceeding £83,566, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1898, for the salaries and expenses of the Office of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Home Department and subordinate Offices."

8. "That a sum, not exceeding £40,810, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1898, for the salaries and expenses of the Department of the Comptroller and Auditor General."

9. "That a sum, not exceeding £5,407, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1898, for the salaries and expenses of the Registry of Friendly Societies."

10. "That a sum, not exceeding £9,725, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1898, for the salaries and expenses of the Office of the Commissioners in Lunacy in England."

11. "That a sum, not exceeding £42, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1898, for the salaries and expenses of the Mint, including the expenses of coinage."

12. "That a sum, not exceeding £9,139, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1898, for the salaries and expenses of the National Debt Office."

13. "That a sum, not exceeding £14,464, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1898, for the salaries and expenses of the Public Record Office."

14. "That a sum, not exceeding £4,591, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1898, for the salaries and expenses of the establishment under the Public Works Loan Commissioners."

15. "That a sum, not exceeding £27,167, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1898, for the salaries and expenses of the Department of the Registrar General of Births, etc., in England."

Resolutions Read a Second time.

First three Resolutions agreed to.

Fourth Resolution postponed.

Subsequent Resolutions agreed to.

Postponed Resolution to be considered upon Monday next.

DANGEROUS PERFORMANCES BILL.

Committee deferred till Thursday.

Whereupon Motion made, and Question, "That this House do now adjourn,"—(*Sir William Walrond*)—put, and agreed to.

House Adjourned accordingly at a Quarter after Eight o'Clock till Wednesday.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Wednesday, 23rd June 1897.

QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE.

ADDRESS TO HER MAJESTY.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR (Lord HALSBURY), on behalf of the Lord Steward, reported that Her Majesty had appointed this day, at a Quarter past Three o'clock, to receive the Address of this House at Buckingham Palace.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR: At the request of my noble Friend at the head of the Government, I have to move that this House at its rising do adjourn until Tuesday next.

Motion agreed to.

House adjourned during pleasure.

House resumed at a Quarter before Three o'clock, and was immediately adjourned to Tuesday next, at a Quarter past Four o'clock.

Their Lordships forthwith proceeded to Buckingham Palace to present the Address of Monday last. The Lord Chancellor was preceded by the Serjeant-at-Arms (Sir Wellington Chetwynd-Talbot) carrying the mace, and by the Purse-Bearer, and was attended by Sir Michael Biddulph, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod. The procession passed behind the Throne, by way of the Princes Chamber to the Peers' entrance in Old Palace Yard. The Lord Chancellor entered his State carriage, accompanied by the Serjeant-at-Arms, Mr. Graham, C.B. (Clerk of Parliaments), and by his private Secretaries, and drove to Buckingham Palace, the Peers following in private carriages.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Wednesday, 23rd June 1897.

The House met a Quarter after Two of the clock, there being a large attendance of Members.

QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE.

ADDRESS TO HER MAJESTY.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): I beg to notify that Her Majesty has been graciously pleased to appoint Half-past Three o'clock for receiving the Address voted on Monday last to Her Gracious Majesty. [*Cheers.*]

ITALIAN PARLIAMENT AND PEOPLE.

*MR. SPEAKER: I have to report to the House that I have this day received from the Italian Ambassador in London a letter, dated June 23, of which the following is a translation:—

"To the Speaker of the House of Commons.
"23 June 1897.
"Sir,

"The Government of His Majesty the King directs me to communicate to you the enclosed telegram, which contains the proceedings taken in the Chamber of Deputies to demonstrate the lively share which the Italian Parliament and Nation take in the manifestation of the feelings entertained by this great people for its great Sovereign.

"In performing this pleasing duty I beg your Excellency to accept the assurance of my high consideration.—GENERAL A. FERRERO, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Italy.

[Enclosure.]

Telegram, dated 22nd June, from the Marquis Visconti Venosta, Minister for Foreign Affairs in the Kingdom of Italy, to the Italian Ambassador in London.

In accordance with the desire of the Chamber of Deputies, I beg your Excellency to be good enough to forward to the Speaker of the House of Commons without delay the following extract from the proceedings of their Sitting of yesterday:—

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Sonnino is authorised to speak.

SYDNEY SONNINO: Hon. Colleagues, To-day the British Nation rejoices, celebrating in the Mother Country and in the

Colonies scattered in all the corners of the earth the 60th anniversary of the Accession to the Throne of the Gracious Queen, Victoria.

I am certain that I express the feelings of the whole House, without distinction of party, when I ask our President, upon this solemn occasion, to make himself the interpreter to the Speaker of the House of Commons of the warm wishes of this Assembly for the long and prosperous continuance of that glorious reign, and to give assurance of the share which the Italian people take in the events which cause the rejoicings of the great English people, the teacher of Liberty, of Tolerance, and Civil and Ordered Progress. [*Applause.*]

Brin, the Minister of Marine, demanded and obtained leave to speak.

Brin: I cannot do otherwise than express in the name of the Government the most lively approbation of the proposal of the Hon. Sonnino that our President should express to the President of the English House of Commons the warm wishes which we, in interpreting the desire of all Italians, express for the happiness and prosperity of the reign of Queen Victoria, who with so much success and glory has guided the destinies of that great and free England, which has ever been the friend of Italy, and for which our country entertains the like feelings of sympathy and friendship.

Imbriani Poviro: In associating myself with this proposal I send my respectful greeting to her who finds herself placed at the head of a free people, which has always and in every direction sought to cultivate liberty according to justice.

The **President**: I accept very heartily the directions of the House, and will make it my duty to carry them out."

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

Mr. SPEAKER acquainted the House that he had received the following communication from the President of the Senate of the Argentine Republic:—

"Telegram from Senor Julio a Roca, President of the Senate of the Argentine Republic, to the President of the House of Commons, handed in at Buenos Ayres at 4.15 p.m. on the 22nd June.

"I have the satisfaction of communicating to your Excellency that the Senate of the Argentine Nation has this day risen from its Session in homage to the English people and to Her Majesty, the honoured Queen and Empress Victoria."

The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY: It will be unnecessary, I think, to make any formal Motion with regard to placing the text of these courteous letters on the Order Paper of the House. That, I think, will be done in due course. Nor is any formal Motion necessary requesting you, Sir, to return suitable answers to these gracious communications, for I understand that that will be done without any further action on the part of the House. [*Cheers.*]

Sir WILLIAM HARCOURT (Monmouth, W.), who was received with cheers: I am sure that every party in this House will associate itself with the satisfaction which has been given by these communications from that great historic nation, in the development of whose liberties England took so large a part, and also the South American Republic, whom she also aided in the development of its liberties. As the right hon. Gentleman has said, I am quite sure that these communications will receive sympathetic answers. [*Loud cheers.*]

At Twenty Minutes before Three o'clock Mr. Speaker left the Chair. Preceded by the Serjeant-at-Arms (Mr. Erskine) carrying the Mace, attended by the Clerk of the House (Sir Reginald Palgrave), his private Secretary (Mr. Edward Gully), and his Chaplain (the Rev. Canon Wilberforce), Mr. Speaker proceeded by way of St. Stephen's Hall and Westminster Hall to New Palace Yard, where he entered his coach, and drove to Buckingham Palace, accompanied by Privy Councillors and hon. Members, nearly 500 in number, some on foot and others in carriages.

At a Quarter after Four o'clock Mr. Speaker returned, and having resumed the Chair, said: I have to acquaint the House that this House has this day presented to Her Majesty an Address, to which Her Majesty has been graciously pleased to make the following reply:—

"I thank you for your loyal and dutiful Address. I have been deeply touched by the numerous manifestations of loyalty and affection to my Throne on the occasion of the completion of the 60th year of my reign, and I am sincerely gratified by the warmth with which you associate yourselves with them."

Whereupon Mr. Speaker, in pursuance of the Order of the House of 21st June, adjourned the House without Question put till To-morrow.

House Adjourned at Twenty Minutes after Four o'Clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Thursday, 24th June 1897.

PRIVATE BUSINESS.

THE SOUTHWARK AND VAUXHALL WATER BILL.

Motion made, "That the Bill be now considered."

MR. J. STUART (Shoreditch, Hoxton) proposed to leave out the words "now considered," in order to add the words "re-committed to the former Committee." He said that the circumstances under which the Bill came before the House, and the situation in which hon. Members found themselves placed in relation to it, were briefly these. For a number of years past the amount of water drawn from the River Thames by the Southwark and Vauxhall Water Company had been very considerably in excess of that which the Company were legally authorised to take. In these circumstances in the early part of the year, the Thames Conservancy had applied for and had obtained an injunction in the High Court for the purpose of preventing the Company from taking that extra amount of water. The result had been that the Southwark and Vauxhall Water Company had thought it necessary to introduce the present Measure, to legalise the overdraft, and to enable them to continue to take the extra amount of water or some other quantity of water from the River Thames. He need scarcely say that the passing of this Bill would make a very great difference in the legal status of the Company, as it would give them the legal right to draw a very large additional quantity of water to enable them to supply the requirements of the district they served with water. The London County Council had made the Company this offer—namely, that they would not oppose the Bill if it merely took the shape of postponing the operation of the injunction. The effect of the measure in that case would be merely to preserve the *status quo* for a limited period. If that course were adopted there would be ample opportunity for consideration as to what should be the ultimate position of the Company in the matter. He thought that it was due to the Committee upstairs, before whom the Bill had come, to say that they appeared to be in favour of passing some Bill permitting the Company to take the overdraft of water for a limited period, but doing absolutely no more than that. If that were the view of the Committee, which he believed it really was, that view had not been carried out in the clause of the Bill simply because the London County Council had not appeared as the opponents of the Measure. No doubt the objections raised to the Bill in its present form had been sufficiently indicated by the line of cross-examination of the promoters' witnesses before the Committee, but the London County Council themselves were not heard through their own witnesses. Let them look at the Bill itself and ask themselves whether it did simply preserve the *status quo*. The very title of the Bill showed that it was intended to authorise the Water Company to take an increased quantity of water from the Thames for an indefinite period. He had no desire to weary the House by going into minute details on this question, but he might point out that it was set forth in the preamble of the Measure that it was absolutely necessary that the Company should be authorised to take an additional quantity of water from the river to enable them to fulfil their statutory obligations. The Bill contained no indication whatever that it was intended to be merely a temporary Measure. Then by the 4th clause of the Bill the Company were directed to bring in the Bill in the course of next year to authorise them to take the additional amount of water after the expiration of the powers conferred by this Bill. He wished to point out, therefore that this Bill would direct the Water Company by Act of Parliament to bring in a Measure next Session to authorise them to take an additional amount of water from the River Thames to enable them to supply their area. That would be a very strong course to adopt, seeing that last year the Committees of that House had been instructed in the case of a number of Water

Bills to do no more than was absolutely essential to meet the exigencies of the moment. He contended that this Bill went beyond what was required to be done at the present moment. Had the London County Council been heard before the Committee, they would have objected to the statement put forward on behalf of the promoters of the Bill that this Measure was absolutely necessary to enable them to fulfil their statutory obligations. He merely desired to point out to the House that this Bill did a great deal more than to merely preserve the *status quo.* It must be remembered that at the present time a Royal Commission was sitting for the purpose of inquiry into the whole question of the water supply of London, and in the face of that Royal Commission they were asked to direct one of the London Water Companies to bring in a Bill to regularise their position by authorising them to take an additional supply of water from the Thames, thus conferring upon them a power that was not extended to any other of the London Water Companies. He maintained that nothing more ought to be done than to preserve the *status quo* until the Royal Commission had made their Report. He hoped that the House would see that there was no desire on the part of the London County Council to unduly interfere with the action of the Southwark and Vauxhall Water Company, and that their only object was to leave the Company alone until the Royal Commission had reported in reference to the *status* of every one of the London Water Comparties. He did not ask the House to go into details that were only suitable for the consideration of a Committee upstairs, and he merely asked that the Bill should be recommitted to the former Committee in order that it might be converted into a temporary Measure. He agreed with Lord Robert Cecil, who, in the course of his examination of the promoter's witnesses pointed out that the injunction need not be enforced, but on the other hand the Thames Conservancy had intimated that they should deem it to be their duty in the existing state of the law to enforce the injunction. He could not blame the Committee that this Jubilee week they had not gone at length into all the details of the matter, but however much they might sympathise with the action of the Committee, they must feel that it was absolutely necessary that the powers to be conferred by the Measure should be of a strictly temporary character. He repudiated the suggestion that those hon. Members on both sides of the House who were acting with him in this matter were endeavouring to defeat the Bill, and he did not believe that any Member of the House would be a party to such action. It had been suggested that the necessary alteration of the Measure in order to render it of a temporary nature might be effected most advantageously in the Committee of the House of Lords, but he did not wish that the case of the London County Council with regard to the Measure should be prejudiced before the Lords Committee by the fact that the Committee of that House had with their eyes open and of their own motion agreed that this Measure should contain permanent provisions. If the Committee intended that the Bill should do more than maintain the *status quo* they should have heard the opponents of the Measure upon the point. If, on the other hand, the Bill went beyond what the Committee intended, the Committee ought to have an opportunity of altering it so as to make it in accordance with their real intention. He begged to move the Motion which stood upon the Paper in his name.

MR. JAMES BIGWOOD (Middlesex, Brentford) in seconding the Motion, asked the House to do justice to Middlesex in reference to this Measure. Middlesex would be affected in a variety of ways if this Bill were to become law in its present shape, and those who were in a position to represent the County had petitioned against the Measure. They had placed themselves in the hands of the most able lawyer, who was much astonished at the decision arrived at by the Committee, who would not give him a hearing. If time permitted he could go into the whole history as to how the Southwark and Vauxhall Water Company came to introduce this Bill. If the Measure were altered so that it would be merely a temporary Bill, no time would be lost. The Company had offended against the law in the opinion of the Thames Conservancy by taking more water from the Thames than they were authorised to do, and an injunction was obtained against them to restrain them from continuing to take the overdraft. The Company had consequently brought in the present Measure to authorise them to continue to take the extra amount of water from the river. To that he had no objection, provided that the powers so to be conferred upon the Company were of a merely temporary character. He appealed to the House not to allow the Bill to pass in its present form. He asked that justice should be done in this matter, because he thought that the Committee had acted in a very high-handed manner. He did not suggest that the Committee were in a hurry to get through their work; but he did ask the House that the case of the petitioners against the Bill might be heard by the Committee upstairs.

Mr. JAMES RANKIN (Herefordshire, Leominster), speaking as a Member of the Committee before whom this Bill had come, said that there was but little difference between the Committee and the hon. Member for Shoreditch with regard to the Measure The action of the Committee in passing the Bill in its present shape was due to the fact that, in consequence of the injunction against the Company having been obtained, it was a matter of great urgency that such a Measure should be passed in order to prevent a water famine in the south of London. The question was one of very great importance, indeed so much so as to override all ordinary red tape modes of procedure. It was certainly intended by the Committee that the Bill should be of a merely temporary character. It must be remembered that the Committee were sitting after the House had risen for the Whitsun holidays, and again their proceedings had been interrupted by the adjournment for the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty. They had been informed that there were a great number of witnesses to be called on both sides, and if this were not to be a prolonged Session, which he hoped would not be the case, it would have been impossible had the whole case on both sides been gone into, for the Bill to have got through both Houses of Parliament before the Prorogation. These were considerations which had undoubtedly weighed with the Committee to a considerable extent, but if it were thought desirable that the Bill should be altered in any respect, the Committee would be glad to have the opportunity of putting it right. He might say that the whole objections of the petitioners had been fully placed before the Committee. The petitioners had relied upon three points. They suggested in the first place that the injunction might have been suspended; but when it was stated that the Thames Conservancy in the exercise of their lawful discretion intended to enforce it, the Committee felt that they could not set aside an injunction of the High Court of Justice. Then it was contended that the leakage from the mains and pipes of the Company was so great as to equal the extra amount of water they desired power to obtain, but the Company's witnesses disproved that assertion. The third point was that other water companies might supply the area in question if authorised to do so by Parliament. But it was impossible that a Measure for that purpose could be passed in time to prevent the people of the South of London from experiencing a water famine. The Committee had therefore come to a unanimous decision against the case of the petitioners. He, however, was quite willng to say that it was the undoubted intention of the Committee that the *status quo* should be preserved with the exception that the Company were to be authorised to take an additional supply of water from the Thames for a limited period. He hoped, however, that it would not be necessary to refer the Bill back to the old Committee, as the needful alterations could be far more advantageously effected in it by the Committee of the other House.

*Sir JOSEPH PEASE (Durham, Barnard Castle), having been Chairman of some of the Committees which had considered the Water Bills, thought that he might say a few words that would tend to bring this discussion to a close. No doubt there was much to be said in favour of a temporary power being conferred upon this Company to enable them to supply their area with water, but they all felt that no more water should be taken from the Thames until the Royal Commission had reported upon the whole question of the water supply of London, and until that question had been settled by Parliament. He thought that the Bill should be converted into a temporary one to be to be in operation for two years only, and that the clauses suggesting that Parliament should, another Session, confer permanent powers upon the Company should be withdrawn either by recommittal before the Committee upstairs or before that of the other House. It would certainly be a most serious matter for the House to commit itself to authorising the Company to draw 41,000,000 of gallons of water daily from the Thames instead of the 24,500,000 gallons they were now authorised to take without inquiry.

*SIR F. DIXON-HARTLAND (Middlesex, Uxbridge) said he wished to state his position, confining himself entirely to the case of the Thames Conservancy. He had nothing to do with the Water Company one way or the other. Parliament had given the Southwark and Vauxhall Water Company power to take 24½ million gallons per day, but for years that Company had been taking 40 millions daily without the consent of the Conservancy, and in contravention of their Act of Parliament. In his position as Chairman of the Thames Conservancy he had consulted some of the Members of the Ministry as to what his duty was, and he was advised that he was bound to go to the Law Courts to prevent the continued breach of the Act of Parliament, because if this breach were allowed to continue unchallenged, if the London County Council or any other authority in the future should take over the undertaking of the Company, the compensation to the Company would be based on this power the Company had exercised to take the larger quantity. For years the Company had been doing no less than stealing the water and selling it to their customers. He did not wish to put it too strongly, but it was so. [*Laughter.*] The Conservancy took proceedings to obtain an injunction, and in effect the Judge said, "We will give you an order to prevent the breach of the Act, but in order that interference with the supply of the Company may not bring about the danger of a water famine, we will give the Company twelve months to obtain from Parliament a temporary measure enabling them to take legally what they have been taking illegally." A Bill was brought in, the Standing Orders of the House being suspended in order that it might get through. It was for twelve months, and at the expiration of that period another Bill would be introduced settling all questions between the Conservancy and the Company. As a Member for the county and Chancellor of the Exchequer for Middlesex, he was of course much interested in the county, and would be the last to support a Bill that would be injurious to the county. He agreed with his hon. Friend the Member for Brentford that the interests of the county had not been fairly considered, but he had had an assurance from the promoters that in the forthcoming Bill there should be fair recognition of the just claims of Middlesex. But his point was this. If the House acceded to the Motion for recommittal, the Bill would in all probability be lost, and the House would be responsible for that water famine that would probably result. The London County Council was actuated by the idea that by pursuing this policy of opposition the Company would be put into a position in which their undertaking could be acquired on cheaper terms, but without doubt the responsibility of a water famine, would that be the result of the loss of the Bill, and the responsibility would be with the House of Commons. In January next the Thames Conservancy would put the injunction in force and restrict the supply of water to the terms of the Act. There was an ample supply of water in the Thames for all London for a hundred years to come, but the principle upon which the Conservancy proceeded was, that the water should be taken in a legal manner in the winter season, and stored in reservoirs for the summer supply, and not taken in the summer to the injury of the navigation, when the water was low. Water taken in such a way from the Thames would be better and cheaper for the people of London than if provided in any other way by the County Council. He hoped the House would not take the responsibility of recommitting the Bill, but would allow it to go forward through its stages, and next year, after the usual notices given in November, a Bill could be introduced upon which all questions could be fully discussed.

Mr. SKEWES-COX (Surrey, Kingston) said he did not for a moment desire to prevent the Company obtaining the supply of water required; what he complained of was the waste of water by the Company through leakage. Half the water taken from the river by this Company was wasted, the ground was saturated, roads were constantly being disturbed, and traffic suspended almost daily, and roads were only made up again in a temporary way. The local authorities desired to state their grievances before the Committee, and to have provisions inserted in the Bill requiring the Company to make up the roads properly, or, failing this, the local authority should be empowered to charge the Company the cost of making up the roads. The local authority had not been heard, and they desired that an undertaking should be given that they should be allowed a *locus standi* in respect of their grievances.

Sir J. BLUNDELL MAPLE (Camberwell, Dulwich) hoped the House would not recommit the Bill. In the London County Council he had spoken against the opposition to this Bill, which emanated from Progressive Members who had determined to fight the Water Companies on every possible occasion. The Water Companies had to make every effort to meet the enormously increasing demand for water in the south of London and avert a water famine. The Motion for recommittal was made with the hope of defeating the Bill, the Progressive Members of the County Council hoping in this way to bring Water Companies "to their knees," as they termed it.

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON (Tower Hamlets, Poplar) thought there would be little difficulty in coming to a general agreement. Every one, in spite of what the hon. Baronet, whom he congratulated on his new honours, had just said, would desire that the Company should be able to obtain the supply of water required, and that its position should be legalised; but in legalising that position the question of the London water supply should be in no way prejudiced. The Government had appointed a Commission, and it was hoped that upon their Report some general agreement on the question of the London water supply would be arrived at. He had heard with pleasure what had fallen from the Chairman of the Committee on the Bill, that so far as the Committee was concerned, its somewhat unusual action would not prejudice the position as affecting the Southwark and Vauxhall Company. Under those conditions he thought his hon. Friend and those on that side of the House who were interested in the matter would be willing to allow the Bill to pass on the promise or pledge given by the Chairman of the Committee, and if those interested in the Bill would also endorse what he had said, he thought that the passing of the Bill would not tend to prejudice their position. As far as he could see, the simplest way in which this could be turned into a practical matter would be for the promoters of the Bill—and perhaps the Government themselves might see their way to ask it—to withdraw Clause 4 when the Bill came before the Committee of the other House. To that clause, or a subsection of it, which contained an instruction to proceed with a Bill empowering the company to take further water from the Thames, they had great objections; and if the right hon. Gentleman the President of the Local Government Board could suggest to the promoters of the Bill that they should withdraw that part of the Clause 4, he himself should have no further objection to the Bill, and he thought the House generally would be pretty unanimous in that sense.

*Mr. STUART WORTLEY (Sheffield, Hallam) said he had not intervened in the Debate before, because the House always—and very properly—heard with great reserve anyone interested in undertakings affected by Private Bill legislation. But he was bound to rise in answer to the appeals which had been made to him. The desire of the Company was to legalise their position. That was their reason, and their sole reason, for bringing in the Bill. Incidentally, the Chairman of the Thames Conservancy Board would pardon him for saying that he was not accurate in describing the Company as for many years disobeying the authority of Parliament. What took place was this. The Company were placed under a maximum limit of water, not by statutory terms, but by an agreement, the validity of which had been more than once questioned by parties external to the Company. It was the settlement of that question, and not the words of the statute, which was decided by the Court when it granted the injunction spoken of that day. Having got rid in that way of a statement which would certainly prejudice the Company if it had been accurately stated by his right hon. Friend, he ventured to say this to the House. The Company wished to be in a position to supply their customers with water without fail; and that was in the interest of the public health and for the common good. If he did not at the present moment say that they were prepared to withdraw Clause 4, either in that House or at subsequent stages of the Bill, he hesitated to do so because the question had not been put to him before; and they were bound to consult the Thames Conservancy and other parties before they could give any such promise. As regarded the claim made by the hon. Member for the Kingston Division, he believed the hon. Gentleman and others were acting from a feeling that if they did not secure a *locus standi* with respect to the Bill in the present Session, they would somehow be cheated of their opportunity next Session. That was not the wish of the Company. It was not in the power of the Company to grant or oppose their *locus standi*; and they certainly did not wish to deprive them by any chicane or underhanded proceeding of any *locus standi* to which they were entitled. If they found that the provisions of the present law were not enough to prevent negligence on the part of the Company, which the House must understand he disputed —he did not admit negligence; and he went further and said that the existing law ought to be strong enough to prevent it taking place. But even assuming that the present law was not strong enough, nothing could prevent them endeavouring to persuade Parliament to do what it could to prevent anything of the kind occurring; and he could assure his hon. Friend that the Company would do nothing to deprive his Friends of any right of action which belonged to them.

*MR. C. T. GILES (Cambridge, Wisbech) wished to advance one or two arguments in favour of the Company being allowed to increase the quantity of water taken by them, at least for a short time. He had no reason whatever to be in favour of the Company; on the contrary, he lived in the district supplied by them. In 1884 he opposed the Company in Parliament on behalf of the inhabitants of his district, and got the very best terms for them he could; but even in 1884 it was clearly proved that the amount of water taken from the Thames was considerably in excess of their legal quantity. They were then taking considerably more than 24½ million gallons. At the present time the water they received in the district was not sufficient for a proper supply, and it would put them to the greatest inconvenience if the injunction were put in force, and the Company were compelled not to take more than their proper legal quantity. He had no doubt that for years past they had been taking 40 million gallons a day; and it was of the highest importance to the districts they served that the amount should not be lessened. He thought if the Committee would take that as a fact from the people who lived in the district, they would put no difficulty in the way, at any rate, of a temporary Measure, so that the inhabitants of the district might be properly supplied during the next two years.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. HENRY CHAPLIN, Lincolnshire, Sleaford) said he thought the right hon. Gentleman behind him had met the opponents of the Bill in language which was certainly not unconciliatory. He understood him to express the hope that the position of the opponents of the Measure would not be prejudiced on any future occasion, and he hoped that what he had said would be a means of leading to a settlement of the question. With regard to the Motion before the House, it was made, as he understood from the hon. Member who had moved it, on the ground that permanent powers ought not to be given to this Company when a Royal Commission was sitting on the general question. But that was not the whole case. If there was nothing more to add, he thought there would be little or no difference of opinion. But that was not by any means the whole of the case. The other side of the case had been stated with simple force by his hon. Friend the Member for Brentford, and by the hon. Baronet the Member for Uxbridge. What the hon. Baronet had told them, in perfectly plain and clear language, was that unless the question was settled on the present occasion, in a temporary manner at all events, the Thames Conservancy were determined to put in force, when the time expired, the injunction they had obtained. The result would unquestionably be to produce the danger of an important part of London having a deficient supply of water. He did not know what the House felt on that point. He confessed that he did not envy the position of the inhabitants of the Vauxhall district, if they found themselves next summer, with a temperature, perhaps, like the present, running short of water, and in danger of a water famine in consequence of a refusal to pass this Bill. He did not know whether the House was prepared to take that responsibility, but, certainly, after the unfortunate experience they had had in the past, he for one dared not take the responsibility; and he should feel himself bound, as President of the Local Government Board, if the Motion for the recommittal of the Bill were pressed to a Division to vote against it. He thought the facts and the present position had been sufficiently stated. The hon. Member for Brentford asked them to do justice to the county of Middlesex. They all wished to do justice to the county of Middlesex, he was sure, and he hoped that county was not likely to be done any injustice to. This was purely a temporary Bill, nothing was permanently fixed, and there would be every opportunity, as far as he could judge, for all the conflicting parties being heard. But, as he had already stated, if the Motion were passed—as he hoped it would not be—he should feel bound to vote against it.

Mr. STUART said that after the way in which the case of the opponents to the Bill had been received by the House, after the statement of the President of the Local Government Board that the Bill, which he desired to go on, was purely a temporary Bill, and after the statement made by the Chairman of the Committee, that their unanimous intention undoubtedly was that the *status quo* should be maintained—with one exception, namely, that the taking of the excess of water should be legal up to a limited time—after that statement, which involved everything he was seeking for and included what he was perfectly prepared to grant, he should not press his Motion to a Division. He wished, however, to be absolutely guarded against being involved in anything else than the simple legislation up to a limited time of what the Company were at present doing; and that being so, he could leave the arguments with respect to individual classes for another place, where he felt sure their case would be in no sense prejudiced by what had occurred here. He should therefore, ask leave to withdraw the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn; Bill ordered to be reported for Third Reading.

STANDING ORDERS.

Ordered, That so much of Standing Order 91 as fixes Five as the quorum of the Select Committee on Standing Orders be Read, and suspended.

Ordered, That, for the remainder of the Session, Three be the quorum of the Committee.—(*Sir John Mowbray.*)

QUESTIONS.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN NAVIES.

*Sir CHARLES DILKE (Gloucester, Forest of Dean): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty whether a Return of British and Foreign Navies, similar to that moved for on 2nd June 1896, can be made this year?

The SECRETARY to the ADMIRALTY (Mr. W. E. Macartney, Antrim, S.): The Return of 1896, if brought up to the present date, would be incomplete and not contain very much more information than was given last year. There will be no objection to presenting later on a Return similar to that of last year.

TELEPHONE EXCHANGES.

Mr. WALTER HAZELL (Leicester): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, in reference to the Return recently issued on the Telephone Exchanges opened by the Post Office, whether he can explain why most of these exchanges have never had more than a nominal number of subscribers, and others which once had a considerable number have gradually lost nearly all, as, for example, Leicester, which had 135 subscribers in 1890, and now has only nine; and whether, having regard to the manifest failure of these Exchanges, he will take steps to have their organisation ended or mended?

THE SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. R. W. HANBURY, Preston): Probably the main reason is that, while the Post Office has always held itself ready to give to the public a service which is within the exclusive privilege of the Postmaster General, it has not been free to push the telephone business in the ways which have been adopted by the licensed companies. As at present advised, the Postmaster General does not think he ought to close any of the Exchanges, however small they may be. He will, of course, take care that they continue to be conducted with efficiency for the benefit of those who use them.

MUZZLING DOGS (LEICESTER).

MR. HAZELL: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture whether he is aware that considerable dissatisfaction is felt at the order for the muzzling of dogs in the borough and county of Leicester, upon the ground that there has been no proved case of rabies in that county for several years, and that the order will cause much inconvenience to the agricultural residents; and whether, under these circumstances, he can hold out any hope of an early revocation of the order?

*THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. WALTER LONG, Liverpool, West Derby): I am aware that some dissatisfaction has been expressed at the inclusion of any portion of Leicestershire in the area in the Midlands to which muzzling orders have been applied, but in view of the fact that two cases of rabies have been reported during the last few months, and that there have been others in adjoining counties close to the Leicestershire boundary, I felt it my duty in the interest of the extirpation of the disease from the country as a whole to adopt the course which has been taken. I regret that I do not see my way to the revocation of the order as suggested.

POST OFFICE (THURLES, CO. TIPPERARY).

MR. J. F. HOGAN (Tipperary, Mid): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, what is the cause of the delay in providing suitable premises for the transaction of postal and telegraph business in the town of Thurles, county Tipperary; has a central and satisfactory site been placed at the disposal of the Department for the purpose; and whether the matter will be expedited in view of the utterly inadequate character of the present accommodation?

MR. HANBURY: It is regretted that little progress has been made with the arrangements for providing a new post office at Thurles since I replied to the last Question on the subject. The cause of the delay is the impossibility of finding a suitable site or premises. The site to which the hon. Member perhaps alludes proved to have an insufficient frontage by itself, and with the addition of an adjoining house it would have been much too expensive. As intimated in my reply on the 3rd ultimo, the Department is inquiring as to another scheme, but, so far, without result. The matter will not be allowed to drop.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

MR. HOGAN: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is now in a position to make a statement in reference to the British Yukon Chartered Company, which contemplates developing the resources of the northern portion of British Columbia; from what source does the Company derive the charter mentioned in its title; and is there any precedent for a colonial trading Company being permitted to use the phrase "chartered" in its title without having previously obtained the consent of the Crown?

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.): I have no statement to make about the Company in question. The charter is no doubt issued by the Governor General under Section 3 of the Canadian Companies Act, cap. 119 of the Revised Statutes of Canada, by which the Governor in Council is empowered to grant charters by Letters Patent under the Great Seal of the Dominion.

SHIPWRIGHTS (NAVY).

MR. S. WOODS (Essex, Walthamstow): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty how many qualified shipwrights are borne on Her Majesty's Navy List; what is the actual number employed; what are the deficiencies in all ports at present; whether he is aware that the difficulty in obtaining properly qualified shipwrights for Her Majesty's Navy is to a large extent due to the delay or refusal of the Admiralty to rectify certain alleged grievances, and to improve their position and pay; and whether the Admiralty are prepared to take any action to redress the grievances complained of?

MR. MACARTNEY: I have nothing to add to the answer which I gave on the 1st inst. to a similar Question asked by the hon. and gallant Member for Pembroke.

QUARRY BANK MINES (STAFFORDSHIRE).

MR. C. FENWICK (Northumberland, Wansbeck): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he is aware that the mining operations carried on by Lord Dudley at Quarry Bank, South Staffordshire, has caused the destruction of much valuable property belonging to working people, and that other properties are threatened with destruction in consequence of the continued working of these mines; and whether it is a fact that the proprietor of the Quarry Bank mines is exempt from the liability of other mine-owners in the district to pay compensation for damages done by such mining operations; and, if so, what steps the Government propose to take to remedy this risk to public life and property?

MR. CHAPLIN: I have not received any communication from the district on the subject mentioned. The matter is not one with regard to which the Local Government Board have any jurisdiction, and I cannot express any opinion as to the legal liabilities of the mine-owner.

WATERFORD DUNGARVAN AND LISMORE RAILWAY.

MR. EDWARD GOULDING (Wilts, Devizes): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury can he now state whether the Treasury are prepared to release the mortgage on the Waterford Dungarvan and Lismore Railway in favour of either the Company or the ratepayers; if not, is it proposed to take any, and what, steps to enforce payment of the debt?

MR. HANBURY: It is not proposed to ask Parliament to release the mortgage on the Waterford Dungarvan and Lismore Railway, a course for which no adequate reason exists. But it is hoped that an arrangement may shortly be concluded which will prove of great benefit to the whole of the district served by this railway.

INDIAN RAILWAYS.

SIR WILLIAM WEDDERBURN (Banffshire): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether, seeing that the capital required for carrying out the programme of Indian Railway extension for the three years ending 1897, 1898, and 1899 is estimated at rather more than 29 millions of tens of rupees (Rx. 29,000,000), and that, during the period of construction, the interest charged on this outlay must heavily increase the current financial burden, it is open to the Secretary of State in Council to revise and reduce this proposed capital outlay?

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Lord GEORGE HAMILTON, Middlesex, Ealing): It is certainly open to the Secretary of State in Council to revise or reduce the capital outlay proposed for railway construction up to 1899; and any recommendation in that direction from the Government of India would receive my most careful consideration. But, seeing the great advantage accruing to India from the development of its railways, the importance of finding useful employment for the people in the distressed tracts, and the waste attendant on a sudden change of such a policy as has been adopted, it would be with great regret that I should sanction any material reduction of the amount entered in the Budget Estimate.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1894.

SIR WILLIAM WEDDERBURN: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate (1) whether practical inconvenience has been experienced in filling up casual vacancies in parish councils under the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1894; and (2) whether he would be disposed to regard favourably a short Bill brought in to provide that casual burghal vacancies shall be filled up by the burghal members of the council, and casual vacancies in the Landward Committee by the members of the Landward Committee?

*The LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire): The Secretary for Scotland is aware of one or two cases where some inconvenience has occurred in the present method of filling vacancies in landward committees, he has not heard of any other difficulty or inconvenience. In reply to the second paragraph of the Question he must reserve his opinion until he sees the terms of the Bill, but would favourably consider a Bill confined to dealing with the difficulty which has actually occurred.

QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE.

SIR WILLIAM WEDDERBURN: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India from what funds the expenses incurred in bringing men and officers of the Indian Imperial Service Corps and Indian cavalry to England on account of the Jubilee Commemoration will be defrayed?

LORD GEORGE HAMILTON: The native States concerned defray the expense of sending home the representatives of the Imperial Service troops, and similar charges for the Indian cavalry will be borne by Indian revenues. The charges for the reception and entertainment of both parties in England will be defrayed from the Imperial Treasury.

MR. J. L. WANKLYN (Bradford, Central): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War if arrangements can be made for the detachments of Indian and Colonial Troops who are our national guests to visit Liverpool, Manchester, Birmingham, Bradford, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Belfast, Dublin, and Bristol before their departure?

MR. W. JOHNSTON (Belfast, S.): Before the right hon. Gentleman answers that Question, may I ask him to give a more favourable consideration to this request, as in Belfast certainly the proposition would be received in the most cordial way.

Sir William Wedderburn.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN: My noble Friend the Secretary of State for India will answer so far as the Indian Troops are concerned. But as regards the Colonial Troops, I have to say that, considering the short time remaining before the departure of the majority of them, it would be absolutely impossible to make such arrangements as suggested by the hon. Member.

MR. WANKLYN remarked that he had received a telegram from Bradford stating that if the Colonial Troops visited that town they would be warmly received. He hoped, therefore, the right hon. Gentleman would favourably consider the matter.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN: I have not the slightest doubt that the Indian and Colonial Troops would be warmly received everywhere in the United Kingdom, and I wish that their stay were sufficiently prolonged to enable them to visit all the towns which have already intimated their desire to hospitably entertain them. It must be borne in mind that the Premiers of the self-governing Colonies have visited most of these towns, and in that way have elicited the feelings of the population. [*Cheers.*]

MR. WOOTTON ISAACSON (Tower Hamlets, Stepney): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he is aware that there is a serious delay in the delivery of letters at Chelsea Barracks, causing great inconvenience to the Colonial Troops; and whether he will institute an inquiry and remedy the same?

MR. HANBURY: There has been no delay so far as the Post Office is concerned. On the contrary, the delivery has been effected rather earlier than usual. The whole of the correspondence is handed to the Corporal in the Library, in accordance with the standing arrangement, and if there has been any delay and consequent inconvenience to the Colonial Troops, the responsibility does not rest with the Postmaster General.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury under what heading and item in the Estimates the expenses incurred for the transport of bodies of officers and men and horses of the Royal Irish Constabulary from Dublin, Cork, Belfast, Derry, and Limerick to London, including the expense of a special train from Holyhead to London, to take part in the Jubilee Procession, will be included?

Mr. HANBURY: The expenses in question will be charged upon the Constabulary Vote in the ordinary manner.

Sir JAMES FERGUSSON (Manchester, N.E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he is able to express his entire satisfaction with the police arrangements, whereby the public have been enabled to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of the Queen. The right hon. Baronet added that he wished he could have so worded the Question as to elicit a tribute to the other Departments concerned, and especially to the admirable behaviour of the public.

Sir H. FOWLER (Wolverhampton, E.): I should like to ask the right hon. Gentleman whether any special grant is to be made, and, if so, of what amount, to the police for their extra services?

Mr. J. AIRD (Paddington, N.): I wish to ask the right hon. Gentleman if he can state whether consideration will be given to the police force of the Metropolis for their most successful efforts in keeping order during the Jubilee rejoicings, and also whether a medal will be given to the police to commemorate the occasion. ["Hear, hear!"]

*The SECRETARY of STATE for the HOME DEPARTMENT (Sir Matthew White Ridley, Lancashire, Blackpool): With regard to the Question on the Paper, I may say that I have already expressed to the Metropolitan and City Police my entire satisfaction with the arrangements that had been made and the manner in which they were carried out by all concerned. [*Cheers.*] I hope that that expression of my satisfaction will meet with the entire concurrence of this House and the public. [*Cheers.*] With reference to the Question as to a grant to the police, there has hardly yet been sufficient time to give the matter attention. As the House will understand, the Commissioner and all others concerned have been extremely busy during the last few weeks; but I hope to lose no time in coming to a decision on the matter. ["Hear, hear!"] The same answer will apply to the Question of my hon. Friend as to the medal.

HAWAII ISLANDS.

Mr. ERNEST BECKETT (York, N.R., Whitby): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he is aware that Queen Liliukalani was deposed from the throne of the Sandwich Islands by a small body of Americans, who without right or title assumed the sovereignty of Hawaii, and who now, to save themselves from the resentment of the people, have requested the American Government to annex the islands to the United States; and whether the British Government propose to allow this most important coaling station, on the direct route between Vancouver and Sydney, to pass into the hands of the United States without protest or remonstrance?

The UNDER SECRETARY of STATE for FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Mr. G. Curzon, Lancashire, Southport): Her Majesty's Government do not feel called upon to express an opinion as to the circumstances out of which the present situation in Hawaii has arisen. They are aware that a proposal for the annexation of Hawaii to the United States has been submitted by the President of the United States for the consideration of the Senate; but no decision has yet been arrived at on this Question. It will be the object of Her Majesty's Government to see that whatever rights according to international law belong to Great Britain or British subjects in Hawaii are fully maintained.

RURAL POSTMEN.

Mr. H. C. F. LUTTRELL (Devon, Tavistock): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he would take steps to supply all rural postmen with free medical attendance, in the same way as postmen in towns; or, in the event of the Department being unable to grant free medical attendance where there are not sufficient postmen to warrant the employment of a medical officer, whether an allowance could be paid to rural postmen when they have to seek medical advice?

Mr. HANBURY: Rural postmen who reside in or start from a town where the Department has a medical officer are entitled to free medical attendance, and those who reside more than three miles from the town can obtain advice and medicine free at the surgery; but beyond this the Postmaster General is not prepared to go.

IRISH LAND COMMISSION.

Mr. McCARTAN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland (1) whether he is aware that the Irish Land Commission, having admitted the existence of the Ulster custom as an interest in addition to the tenants' improvements, refuse to make any abatement in rent on account of this interest; (2) whether he is aware that rent is now imposed upon this interest in estimating the gross value in the Schedule provided by the Irish Land Act, 1896, without making any allowance to the tenant in respect of same; and (3) whether some steps will be taken to change this practice of the administration of the Land Laws in Ireland in this and other respects?

The ATTORNEY GENERAL for IRELAND (Mr. J. Atkinson, Londonderry, N.): The result of the decision of the Land Commission is not accurately stated in the first and second paragraphs of the Question. The decision itself is under appeal, pending the result of which it is not desirable that the operation of the decision should be criticised in the form of answers to Questions.

Mr. MACNEILL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, whether he is aware that cases heard before a Sub-Commission for the fixing of fair rents, sitting at Donegal on 9th March and subsequent days, have not yet been decided; what is the reason of this delay; and whether, having regard to the interests both of landlords and tenants, and the grievous inconvenience caused by this delay, any steps will be taken to exepedite the giving of decisions within a reasonable time after the hearing of the cases?

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: I must ask the hon. and learned Member to defer this Question until Monday next, local inquiry being necessary.

IRISH JUDICIARY.

Mr. MACNEILL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in the Measure which the Government have promised to introduce for the reduction of the Irish Judiciary, there will be provisions securing the reduction of court fees and the lessening of the expenses of litigation?

The ATTORNEY GENERAL for IRELAND: It would be unusual to make any statement regarding the provisions of a Bill before its Introduction, and I must ask the hon. and learned Member to wait for the Introduction of the particular Measure in question.

TRANSVAAL (SEKUKUNI'S TRIBE).

Mr. ALFRED PEASE (Yorkshire, Cleveland): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his attention has been called to the recent treatment of natives of Sekukuni's tribe in the Transvaal by a native Commissioner named Abel Erasmus and Commandant Cronje, and to the detailed relation of the circumstances published in a book by Mr. John Proctor; and whether any steps have been taken by the Suzerain Power to enforce the conditions set forth in Article 19 of the Convention of 1884 in the interest of the native population of the South African Republic?

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN: My attention has been drawn to the statements in Mr. Proctor's book, and I will communicate with the High Commissoner on the subject.

LONDON AND INDIA DOCKS JOINT COMMITTEE.

Mr. FORTESCUE FLANNERY (Yorkshire, Shipley): I beg to ask the Attorney General whether his attention has been called to an allegation made by the Hearts of Oak Benefit Society that the London and India Docks Joint Committee have a rule compelling workmen in their employment to leave any outside benefit society to which they may belong, or in the alternative to be dismissed from their employment; and, whether he will consider what amendment, if any, of the law should be made to bring such pressure by employers of the kind above named under the same penalties as intimidation by workmen of each other.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL (Sir Richard Webster, Isle of Wight): My attention has not been called to the matter referred to in the Question of the hon. Member. Upon the information at my disposal I do not think that any amendment of the law is necessary to deal with cases of the kind.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs) asked the First Lord of the Treasury whether it was intended to take the Diplomatic Vote that night and the other Votes in Class 5; what Votes would be taken on the following day, and what would be the course of business next week?

SIR F. LOCKWOOD (York) presumed the Law of Evidence (Criminal Cases) Bill, which was on the Order Paper, would not be taken that night, but if it would not be inconvenient he should be glad if the right hon. Gentleman would state what his intentions were with regard to it.

MR. BROADHURST (Leicester) asked on what date the Report stage of the Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill would be taken.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): In regard to the Question last put me by the hon. Member for Leicester, I have to say the Report stages of the Compensation for Accidents Bill will be taken on Monday, July 5, and if necessary the following days. In answer to the other Questions, I may say that of course we shall not take any Bill at all to-night except the Report stage upon the Scotch Education Grant, which we hope to get through. To-morrow night will be devoted to Scotch Estimates. With regard to next week, the first Order on Monday will be the London Water Bill, and the second the Scotch Education Bill. On Tuesday the Finance Bill will be taken, and that is as far as I can venture to prophesy. We shall take the Consular and Diplomatic Vote to-night; but the Foreign Office Vote will not be taken till a later day.

EARTHQUAKE (INDIA).

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS (Denbighshire, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he has received any later information in reference to the loss of life and destruction of property by the recent earthquake in Assam and Sylhet, and whether he can give any information as to the position of the missionaries of the Welsh Presbyterian Mission stationed in the Khasia and Jaintia Hills and in Sylhet?

LORD GEORGE HAMILTON: We have no later information beyond what has been published in the public journals. The later telegrams give a largely reduced estimate of the probable loss of life. Nothing is known as to the position of missionaries in the Khasia and Jaintia Hills and Sylhet, but so soon as I can obtain any authentic information I will gladly communicate it to the hon. Gentleman.

MURDER AT POONA.

MR. M. M. BHOWNAGGREE (Bethnal Green, N.E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he has received any detailed information from India regarding the murder at Poona of Mr. J. Rand, of the Civil Service, and of Lieutenant Ayerst, of the Commissariat Department; and whether he can state under what circumstances and by whom these diabolical acts were committed?

LORD GEORGE HAMILTON: I have received a telegram giving more detailed information concerning this outrage, which was of a determined and premeditated character. Mr. Rand and Lieutenant Ayerst were returning from an entertainment at Government House, when two men at a lonely part of the wood sprang up upon the springs of their respective carriages, and fired at them with pistols. Lieutenant Ayerst was shot dead by the side of his wife, and Mr. Rand was severely wounded, but is doing well. Mr. Rand was head of the Plague Commission in Poona, and had with great skill and energy practically stamped out that pestilence. He had been violently denounced by name in some of the vernacular Press for his action in that capacity. Lieutenant Ayerst was not connected with the plague operations.

RELEASE OF PRETORIA REFORM PRISONERS.

MR. MICHAEL DAVITT (Mayo, S.) asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether it was true that President Kruger had released the two prisoners Davies and Wolff in honour of the Diamond Jubilee?

MR. CHAMBERLAIN: I received some time ago confidential information from Pretoria that it was the intention of President Kruger to release Messrs. Davies and Wolff on the occasion of Her Majesty's Jubilee, and I am glad to say he has carried out that intention. [*Cheers.*]

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

SUPPLY.

[THIRTEENTH ALLOTTED DAY.]

Considered in Committee.

[The CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS, Mr. J. W. LOWTHER, in the Chair.]

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1897-8.

CLASS V.

1. Motion made, and Question proposed,

> "That a sum, not exceeding £238,212, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1898, for the expenses of Her Majesty's Embassies and Missions abroad, and of the Consular Establishments abroad and other expenditure chargeable on the Consular Vote."

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucester, Forest of Dean) drew attention to the conduct of the Consul General in Zanzibar in relation to the abolition of slavery and the treatment of fugitive slaves in that territory. He reminded the Committee that early in the Session, in moving for a further conference upon the affairs of Africa, following the Berlin and Brussels Conferences, he alluded to this subject. But since then details of the working of the policy pursued had been furnished by those thoroughly acquainted with it. In a Dispatch alluding to the treatment which would have to be extended to runaway slaves, and in the edict issued by Mr. Harding in Zanzibar, there were provisions for dealing with vagrancy, from which it appeared that slavery would be re-introduced. With regard to the coast strip, 250 miles long, extending from Mombasa south-west opposite to Zanzibar, the late Attorney General expressed an opinion, to which he still adhered, that the institution of slavery was absolutely illegal, and that there were Orders in Council which made it illegal, with an illegality which transcended that under the common law. The present Attorney General had also expressed the opinion that it was illegal to detain slaves against their will in the coast strip. Bishop Tucker had supplied the actual documents which had been used in the restoration of fugitive slaves, and these, signed by the Commissioner, gave the bearer permission to search for runaway slaves. Bishop Tucker informed us that scores of slaves had been surrendered under the orders of the Commission up to December last, but since then the practice had ceased. But he himself could not conceive that the Foreign Office should allow fugitive slaves to be handed over in direct defiance of British law, and the special engagements undertaken by the Powers under the Brussels Act. Seven slaves at a time would be fetched by British soldiers, and if their ownership were proved in the Courts, they were handed over. The Courts in the coast strip were British Courts, giving their decrees in the name of the Queen, not of the Sultan of Zanzibar, and yet these Courts tried fugitive slaves and handed them over to their owner. No stipulation was made that they should not be cruelly punished, and he was afraid they received the same treatment as in Pemba, where they had been flogged or starved to death. As Bishop Tucker said, slavery seemed to "die hard" in British East Africa. The terms of the Brussels Act were that any fugitive slave claiming the protection of the Signatory Powers should obtain it. Was it not in constant defiance of the terms of the Act as well as of the British law that these fugitive slaves, instead of getting protection, should be actually handed over to their former owners? He did not know what was the answer of the Foreign Office to these questions, but they could have no doubt as to what were the principles which the House ought to see enforced. In the House of Lords in 1876 there was a discussion on the whole treatment of fugitive slaves, and Lord Selborne then said that there was no question of international law in this matter at all, that it was a question of public policy and of what was due to the honour and dignity of this country. Lord James—then Sir Henry James—had also said in that House about the same time that we could never be asked to enforce a law which was abhorrent to our nature and adverse to our institutions. If this were a case of human sacrifice instead of slavery a demand for the giving up of a fugitive would be treated as it deserved. He would like to know how the Foreign Office could expect that Bishop Tucker should allow his missionaries to give up the fugitive who had escaped from plantation slavery of the worst description. There was an item in this vote for the international bureaux at Zanzibar and at Brussels, the two bureaux—one local and one general — which were intended to inform the Powers with regard to the arrangements of the Brussels Act. One of those arrangements was a declaration by all the Powers with regard to this point of fugitive slaves, and how could the Government ask for such a vote when they were themselves handing over fugitive slaves to their owners? ["Hear, hear!"] This Vote contained all the Foreign Office protectorates except two, and he pointed out that the expenditure and the work were constantly increasing. Every one who knew them had a high opinion of the ability of the Foreign Office servants, but they were better fitted to carry out diplomatic rather than administrative duties, and he thought these protectorates should be administered by the Colonial Office. There was another matter of which he wished to speak. In this vote they had to deal with the salary of Lord Cromer and our officials in Egypt. Lord Cromer had lately sent two gentlemen to report upon the province of Dongola; at the time of the Soudan expedition very enthusiastic language was used in that House with regard to the value of that province, but from these reports it appeared that the agricultural resources of Dongola were limited, and that little cultivation was ever carried on there. It was stated that the Dervishes had put an end to the cultivation of this strip of territory by abolishing male slavery. That was an extraordinary fact. The right hon. Gentleman opposite had spoken the other day of the immense difficulties connected with the abolition of slavery in such districts, and did not hold out the slightest hope to them of its abolition. In the islands of Zanzibar and Pemba the abolition of slavery had been but nominal, and in the coast strip under our direct protection there had been a continuation of plantation slavery. The measures which were taken with regard to the surrender of fugitive slaves were worse than the previous state of things which had existed. He could not but think that it was somewhat discreditable, after the Debates which they remembered in a recent Parliament, when the removal of the stigma of slavery from the British name was urged, that they should have a state of things in which the slavery of all the women was retained and the slavery of the men was not really abolished, and that an absolute refusal should be given to the proposal to abolish slavery in the coast strip. Constant complaints had been made that the Foreign Office was not as well served as it might be in regard to its Consuls. He believed that great numbers of the Consuls performed their duties most admirably, but that where there were deficiencies it was due to men with an insufficient knowledge of commerce or foreign tongues being put into important Consulates. He believed the cure for this might be found in making the Foreign Office more of a close service, and appointing men of merit to the larger from the smaller posts in a greater degree than had hitherto been done. The House never refused the large sums of money which the Government asked for the Consular and Diplomatic Service, and would be willing if necessary to increase it; but there was undoubtedly great dissatisfaction among those interested in the Consular Service, for commercial and other reasons, owing to the manner in which the Consuls were taken away from their proper work, and the absence of a system of promotion by merit. The Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs had very powerfully put those views before the country. The right hon. Gentleman, in his book, "The Problems of the Far East," pointed out the great importance, if the decline of British influence in Corea and Central China was to be averted, of having there trained Consuls who knew the language of the country, its needs, and requirements.

MR. PARKER SMITH (Lanark, Partick) said he could not be accused of having pressed this question of the existence of slavery in Zanzibar less upon the present Government, which he supported, than upon the late Government. ["Hear, hear!"] Sir Arthur Hardinge, the British Consular General and Commissioner at Zanzibar—a valuable public servant, who well deserved the honour he had just received from Her Majesty—took an extremely strong view in his Dispatches against the abolition of slavery. The Government had overruled Sir Arthur Hardinge's views, and had decided, in accordance with its pledges to the House, that slavery should be abolished. He had no doubt that Sir Arthur Hardinge would loyally carry out the policy which had been decided on by the Government, but it was a question deserving of consideration whether a man who held such views should have the duty of carrying out that policy.

CAPTAIN BETHELL (York, E.R., Holderness) said it was a question whether the Government would not be well advised in deciding to bring the Protectorate of Zanzibar not only really but nominally under the Foreign Office. If that were done—as it might have been done under the late Government—the legal status of slavery in the Protectorate could be easily abolished. He had no doubt that if the Foreign Office put their heart into the matter they would be able to remove the difficulties that stood in the way of realising the object which they all desired. The existence of the legal status of slavery in territory actually administered by this country was a scandal that ought to be removed as soon as possible, and the question would be raised again and again in the House until the Foreign Office decided that the reform should be carried out. With reference to the Nyassa Protectorate, the reports published from that country were very old. The last report was two and a half years old, and he could not see why reports of a more recent time should not be furnished.

*MR. J. A. PEASE (Northumberland, Tyneside) said he held in his hand the actual documents sent by the representative of the Government at Mombasa to missionaries demanding the delivery up to him of fugitive slaves. One memorandum was,—

> "The bearer, Idi bin Abdullah Kowbo, has permission to search for his master's slaves, seven in number [here follow the names]. If found he is to bring them down to Mombasa in charge of Askari from Rabai, and will have to prove ownership before the Court here."

Another ran,—

> "Will you please give the bearer, an Arab, Sher Ahmed, three Askaries, who will have to bring from Riba any slaves this man may claim. The slaves must then be brought here by the Askaries, and the Arab must prove his ownership."

A third was,—

> "The bearer, Ali bin Mahomed, has permission to proceed to Rabia to search for his slaves. If found, they must be brought to this office."

Another of the documents, dated Nov. 27 last, ran,—

> "Sir,—Would you be so good as to give the bearer any assistance you can in finding a woman named Khatima (slave). She is a runaway from Lamu, and is wanted by the Commissioner."

Shortly before the Whitsuntide recess, the Under Secretary said in the House that the Administrator at Mombasa had authority to deal with each case according to discretion, so that the Administrator might still be ordering these slaves to be handed over to the slave-owners. There was the authority of the late Attorney General for stating that any slave held by a British subject, or handed from one to another, was a contravention of the law. The Government were not only permitting illegality, but were encouraging the system of slavery by this practice, and he learnt from a traveller who had recently returned that one effect was that runaway slaves were making their way to German instead of to British territory, because the German authorities did not cause them to be returned to possibly cruel owners, as was the case in the British Protectorate. Last November a deputation waited on the Under Secretary, and represented the necessity of abolishing slavery, not only on the island, but on the mainland, and the impression of the deputation was that the Government were going to free the slaves throughout the whole of the

Zanzibar Protectorate. Wherever slavery had been abolished the policy had been successful. In Madagascar and the Niger territories slavery had been abolished by a stroke of the pen, and all the difficulties anticipated by the Government in abolishing slavery on the islands of Zanzibar and Pemba had proved unreal. As to the way in which the policy was being carried out at Zanzibar, he believed that there had been 25 slaves liberated, and the owners of 21 of them had been compensated. He protested against this policy of compensation, which was unnecessary, and would make the work of the Government more difficult in abolishing slavery on the mainland. He was informed that a number of slaves were running away from the Zanzibar plantations in order to appeal to the Government for their freedom. He hoped that justice would be done to these slaves, who were now being detained. He saw no reason why the slaves on the mainland should not be liberated at once.

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Mr. G. CURZON, Lancashire, Southport) said that before dealing with the important question of slavery in Zanzibar he would answer the questions of minor importance which had been addressed to him. The right hon. Baronet the Member for the Forest of Dean had called attention to a passage in a book of his (Mr. Curzon's), in which great stress was laid on the organisation of our Consular service in the Far East and the necessity of having a body of specially qualified men for the work. The Government had not lost sight of that necessity, and at present they were reorganising the Consular establishment in the Far East with a view to putting it on a basis somewhat analogous to that of the Indian Civil Service. A separate examination was being provided for, and the intention was to get a higher class of candidate. For the work in these Eastern countries special qualifications and training were required, and no effort would be spared by the Government to secure them. But he did not agree with the right hon. Baronet that the case of Her Majesty's present representative at Peking was an instance of the salutary rule which he had mentioned being ignored to the detriment of the public service. It was true that Sir C. Macdonald had never been in China or the Far East before, but since his appointment the Foreign Office had had an absolute concurrence of testimony from every source—diplomatic, commercial, and others—that a more industrious, active, and capable representative of British interests in China there had never been. He had received a letter from the one Englishman who, having been resident in China for 20 or 30 years, knew most about the country, saying that Sir C. Macdonald would, in his opinion, turn out to be one of the greatest English Ministers who had ever been sent to China. As to the Nyassaland Protectorate, he was not aware that the official papers were behindhand, but he would see that they were laid on the Table as soon as possible. As to the question of slavery in Zanzibar, and the recent decrees, he must protest against the interpretation which had been put, not so much upon the conduct, as upon the intentions of the Government. The right hon. Baronet had spoken of a grudging and nominal abolition of slavery. That was not the intention of the Government, and he did not think that it had been the effect of the decrees. He was struck with the fact that there seemed to be on the part of those organisations in the country which had so long interested themselves in this question a sort of set purpose to prove that the Government in taking these steps were acting dishonestly and were trying to render their own policy nugatory in effect. The same spirit seemed to lie behind some of the references to Sir A. Hardinge. Sir A. Hardinge had argued with strenuous vigour and ability in favour of his own particular views, but that had not precluded him from showing the greatest ingenuity and industry in carrying out the policy decided upon by the Government. He did not think the hon. Member or any one in the Committee need have the slightest fear that Sir Arthur Hardinge would not carry out loyally the instructions the Government had given him. They had the best guarantee in his considerable experience in that part of the world and his great popularity with the Arabs. The right hon. Baronet the Member for the Forest of Dean seemed to be haunted by the fear that the few words which appeared in the decree with reference to vagrancy were to be so interpreted as to involve a practical recrudescence of slavery in the islands. As a matter of fact, the only powers given to the local authorities in connection with vagrants were powers similar to those possessed by English magistrates and British officers in many parts of the world in dealing with vagrants. As an illustration of the operation of those powers, he might mention that the only case in which they had so far been applied had been with reference to 15 runaways who, when the decrees were issued, started off from their plantations and were then set to work, receiving a regular wage for what they did, on the Government plantation, and were perfectly content. There was no reason to fear that, by a side wind, under the title of vagrancy or anything else, the Government had the slightest desire to interfere with the decrees, which were *boná fide*, and which they intended to carry out. He hoped hon. Gentlemen would not be carried away by articles which were written for the most part by gentlemen sitting in London, who had to justify their action with certain excellent societies by putting the most odious interpretation they could at every point on the action of Her Majesty's advisers. He next turned to the question of fugitive slaves, on which the right hon. Baronet laid so much stress, and drew what he could not help thinking was a rather coloured picture of the actual steps that were taken by British officers in that part of the world, and which, he argued, were in direct defiance of British law and the Brussels Act. From a careful perusal of the opinion of the late Attorney General, he did not gather that that was his impression, and after a long conversation with the present Attorney General the other day, he could say that he was not of opinion that anything had been done contrary to the law, and he failed to find in the Brussels Act any clause or passage that had not been faithfully carried out by their representatives in the Protectorate. What happened? A slave ran away from his master. The master appealed to the British authority to supply him with a force of police to recover his runaway slave. The police were provided, and the master went to reclaim his slave. The slave was surrendered, and the master then had to take him back to the Court and prove to the satisfaction of the Commissioner that he was a legally held slave. That was the process. He could understand anyone arguing that they ought to abolish the legal status of slavery altogether. [*Opposition cheers.*] That was a question which he would deal with on its own merits, but, so long as they had decided not to abolish it, and so long as it was the law of the land, it was perfectly clear that the law must be carried out. It was perfectly clear that the Administrator, while exercising his own discretion in the manner which the Government had enjoined him to do, must, at the same time, carry out over the subjects of the Sultan the Sultan's law. When they took over the protectorate rather less than two years ago, Mr. Hardinge, as he then was, acting under the instructions of Lord Kimberley, was instructed to tell the people that the law of Islam would be maintained. That being so, until the Government changed their policy there was no alternative but to take the steps that had been taken. The hon. Member opposite talked about the slaves running away to German territory for fear of being handed over to their masters. This was a very extraordinary thing. The right hon. Baronet and the advocates of his view always seemed studiously to lose sight of the fact that any slave in the ten-miles strip could get his freedom by going across that strip. Why should he go into German territory, when, with a two hours' journey, he could gain his freedom?

Captain BETHELL: He cannot come back. ["Hear, hear!"]

*Mr. CURZON: Yes, he can come back. He is free under the Brussels Act.

*Mr. J. A. PEASE: But he is liable to be taken within the ten-miles' strip.

*Mr. CURZON said he was not. So long as he was within the ten-miles strip he was liable to be given back to his master—[*Opposition cheers*]—but once he had crossed the ten-miles strip he acquired his freedom, and, having once been free, he could not be restored to his master. But, perhaps, after all, the real point of issue was not that he should explain or even defend the manner in which the existing law was carried out, but that he should try to put before the Committee the reasons why the policy which had been carried out in the islands had not at the same time been extended to the mainland. Here he must deprecate the implication in the speech of the hon. Member opposite that there had been a sort of breach of faith on the part of the Government. The hon. Member alluded to an interview which he and many of his friends were good enough to favour him with last autumn, when he endeavoured to state the views of the Government. At that interview he was never asked, and no Member of the Government had ever been asked, to abolish the legal status of slavery except in the islands. He believed that no Member of this Government, or of the Government which preceded it, had ever given any other pledge than to abolish the legal status of slavery in the islands. He had never heard the question of the mainland argued in that House, and it was not until after they had taken these steps with regard to the islands that the question of the mainland appeared. He thought it would be easy to show that there were the widest differences in the two cases—in the character of the slavery, in the number of slaves who were legally held, and in the conditions under which freedom could be obtained. In the case of the islands, during all the years in which this agitation had lasted, what had been the chief gravamen of the charge against the continuance of slavery? Had it not been that the enormous majority of slaves were illegally held? In the islands, as they knew, since 1873 every agricultural slave who had been imported or had been moved from one island to the other by sea, was illegally held. In the case of the mainland, under the treaties and decrees of successive Sultans, the enormous preponderance of the slaves were legally held. It was quite true that any slaves brought in by sea after 1873 were as illegally held there as in the islands, but any slaves brought overland were legal up to the year 1889, when, under the decree of the Sultan, everybody entering the Sultan's dominions was declared free. All slaves born there were legal up to 1890, and all slaves bought and sold on the mainland were legal before 1890, so that there was this great difference between the two cases—that, whereas the overwhelming preponderance of slaves in the islands were illegally held, the corresponding majority on the mainland were legally held. The Committee would notice how this would aggravate the question of compensation at the start. It might be argued that they ought not to give compensation. [*Opposition cheers.*] The reasons for which the Government did so were stated in Lord Salisbury's Despatch, and it was not necessary for him there to argue the abstract ethical question as to whether the Government should in any case recognise the pecuniary value of the property of one man in the person of another. Suffice it to say that the Government felt that there was a definite guarantee given by the Sultan of Zanzibar, under British sanction, to certain possessors of legally held slaves which they could not ignore, and, having decided that in the case of the islands, it must be quite clear that they could not turn round and adopt quite a different policy on the mainland. He ventured to say that if they were to apply this policy to the mainland as well, the question of compensation would assume the most enormous proportions and would render their decrees a failure. He should like to say another word about the character of the system of slavery in the two places. In the islands the slavery was plantation slavery. That was not the case on the mainland. There the slavery was mainly agricultural and domestic; the slaves worked in the maize and millet fields, or in the cocoanut groves, living in the cottages or on the lands of their masters, and receiving a share of the produce in return for their labour. He had not heard of any grievances or hardships connected with the system of slavery on the mainland, and if there had been, they would have been brought to their attention. Then there was this final differentiating point in the two systems, that whereas in the islands there were no means whatever for a slave to acquire his freedom, because it was impossible for him to escape by sea, on the mainland any one of the slaves could, by crossing this ten-miles strip, acquire his freedom. It did seem to him to be absurd for the right hon. Baronet to come there and talk about the slaves being handed over by British officers to cruelty and starvation. No evidence of either cruelty or starvation on the mainland had been brought to their attention. He might add that Sir John Kirk, who in this matter of slavery had an authority second to none, and who had for many years persistently advised the policy the Government had now carried out in regard to the islands, had told him himself that he saw no necessity whatever for taking similar steps on the mainland, and that if such a proposal were made he would strenuously resist it. There was one other consideration. He thought it was worth bearing in mind that it was not yet two years since they had taken over the Protectorate of the mainland dominions of Zanzibar. Almost immediately afterwards there was a rather formidable outbreak, and it was not until after they had brought over a regiment from India and a considerable expenditure had been incurred that the rebellion was successfully quashed. Whether their policy was held to be right or wrong, there were therefore very good grounds for it. He believed the matter would ultimately solve itself, but he was bound to say that, whilst there were very good reasons for the step the Government had taken, he had not had any reason put before him, beyond the abstract ground of uniformity, to lead him to believe they ought to have adopted a different line.

Mr. REGINALD McKENNA (Monmouthshire, N.) said that when the right hon. Gentleman promised at the beginning of the Session to abolish slavery in Zanzibar and Pemba, he gave to the Government credit for good intentions. He believed now that the Government were as anxious to abolish slavery there as hon. Gentlemen on the Opposition side of the House, but the question was whether the instrument they had chosen to carry out the work was a proper one. The hon. Member for the Partick Division said it was notorious that Sir Arthur Hardinge was in sympathy with the Arab masters. He did not think that proposition could be disputed. Let him read two rival testimonies upon this subject. Sir Arthur Hardinge, who was the Consul General in Zanzibar, reported:—

> "I think it may be said of the slave population generally, that, however little they may love the Arab, they greatly prefer him to the European. When the slave owner is a negro, and even often when he is an Arab, his slaves, even if from time to time he cruelly beats and oppresses them, are generally treated as members of the same family, feeding out of the same dish, and living on terms of considerable intimacy. Slaves born in the islands will generally live to a fair age."

Mr. Curzon.

That was the testimony of the gentleman who was sent out with instructions to abolish slavery. What was the testimony of Mr. O'Sullivan, who was sent out specially to report upon slavery in Zanzibar and Pemba? Mr. O'Sullivan wrote,—

> "The Arab is a stern and exacting task master, often a cruel one as well. He gives himself no concern about the welfare of his chattel, to whom he gives neither food nor clothing. Hard work and miserably inadequate diet sufficiently accounts for a very high death rate, and an extraordinarily low birth rate. When a slave becomes incapacitated for work, owing to disease or accident—old age is hardly ever a cause, for the average life of a slave is a short one—he is in almost every instance discarded by his owner."

Was it not to be expected that, in face of his views, Sir Arthur Hardinge, when he was sent out with special power to abolish slavery, should exercise the ingenuity for which the right hon. Gentleman had given him credit in a way of which they complained? There was a hut tax imposed upon the workpeople, no longer slaves, but workers. If the people were unable to pay the tax and ran away, they might be brought back and compelled to do forced labour. That was a condition which, in the case of a bad master or workman, would undoubtedly be a condition of slavery. It was certainly never the intention of the British Parliament that British officers should be used for the purpose of handing fugitive slaves back to their masters. No doubt there was a difference between the conditions of the continent and the islands, but it must be generally admitted it was unworthy of the British Parliament that at this time they should be voting money for the purpose of paying officers one of whose recognised duties was to hand fugitive slaves back to the masters from whom they had fled. ["Hear, hear!"]

Mr. W. F. LAWRENCE (Liverpool, Abercromby) said it was invidious to complain of the way in which Consul Generals up and down the world performed their duties, but he heard that the Consul at Fernando Po had been rather lax in issuing reports. He was informed that the jurisdiction of this gentleman covered a very large tract of country of very great importance, and that those who had trading interests in that part of the world thought it would be a good thing if the Under Secretary would take an early opportunity of pointing out to the gentleman who represented the Government in Fernando Po the interest with which they would receive any information he might give with regard to the trade all along that coast. It was now ten years since the Consul had reported. Surely it was about time they should have evidence that the gentleman was adequately discharging his important duties. [Note.—Mr. W. F. Lawrence wishes it to be known that he intended to refer to H. M.'s Consul at Loanda, and not to H. M.'s Consul at Fernando Po.]

Mr. ALFRED PEASE (Yorkshire, Cleveland) said he was glad a mission was sent to King Menelik, because he believed it was the turning over of a new leaf in respect to our policy towards Abyssinia. He always regretted, not only the Italian policy towards Abyssinia, but also the countenance it received until lately from this country. He was certain that no commercial advantage, and he believed no political advantage, in those regions could be secured by this country unless we were prepared to recognise as far as possible the independence of Abyssinia. The importance of the mission had not been sufficiently recognised by the country, though during the last few weeks more interest had been taken in its proceedings. He supposed the right hon. Gentleman was not in a position as yet to give the Committee any details as to the success or failure of the mission, but he felt certain that if the mission had not succeeded on every point, it would have done much to make the negotiations between this country and Abyssinia much easier. No commercial or political advantages could be secured by us in the regions of Africa unless we were prepared to recognise the independence of Abyssinia and to encourage such relations with that country as would enable us to delimit our Somaliland frontiers and to develop our trade interests. Even if the mission had not succeeded on every point it would have done much to promote the success of negotiations in the future. He looked upon the development of our trade with Abyssinia as a most important matter. At present Greeks, who were not suspected of political motives, had most of the trade, and if we could persuade King Menelik that we had no ulterior objects except the protection of our rights and the development of our trade, we would find little difficulty in securing the co-operation of the Abyssinians. He was in favour of the establishment of a railway from Harar to Berbera, believing it necessary if the French were not to divert the Abyssinian trade. There was some danger when this Commission returned and its Report was made that the whole question of our interests in Somaliland and commercial interests in Abyssinia might be lost sight of. Then there was the question of the Abyssinian raids into the horn of Africa, and on to the regions which were more or less under our protection. In the interests of the natives who looked to us for protection, he hoped some understanding might be come to with the Abyssinian Government that these raids should cease. He had seen districts in Somaliland in a most piteous condition owing to these Abyssinian raids. We must retain our hold on this part of Africa, for it was of absolute necessity to Aden, and it was becoming of increasing importance to India especially, because in Somaliland we could get the camels required for the Indian transport service. There were many camels in Somaliland, and the experiment was now being tried of exporting them to India. He felt certain it would be a successful experiment, and that Somaliland would be able to contribute to the wants of India in that and other respects. He trusted the Government would maintain the present regulations of the exclusion of spirits and gunpowder from that part of Africa, and would co-operate with the Governments of France and Abyssinia for the protection of the natives from these two curses. ["Hear, hear!"]

*Mr. CURZON said that of course they desired to devolop to the best of their powers the commercial capabilities of the country. If a railway could be laid they would be only too glad. He was afraid he could not give any further information about the mission because he did not know anything for certain. There was absolutely no reason why this country should not maintain the most friendly relations with the Abyssinian Monarch, and there was reason to hope that Mr. Rodd's mission, which had recently returned, had not been unsuccessful in its object. ["Hear, hear!"]

*Sir E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT (Sheffield, Ecclesall) said that the question of the relations of this country with

Abyssinia was of the utmost importance in connection with Eastern and Central Africa. Abyssinia had been too long neglected. He was confident that hon. Members who took interest in the future of the Soudan and the Nile waterway would recognise the importance of Mr. Rodd's mission, and would hope that it might be successful. Since the mission of the Russian Colonel Leontieff to Abyssinia some three years ago, our relations with that country had been exceptionally critical. He hoped that the result of the present mission would be to improve this critical state of affairs. The future of the Soudan and of the Trans-African Empire of Great Britain depended enormously on Abyssinia. Not only Russia, but France also had been making desperate efforts to influence the policy of that country. Knowing that he welcomed the present activity of the Government in sending out Mr. Rodd. Great efforts had been made by two leading European Powers to close in upon the region of the Upper Nile and thus shut out British influence from the Upper Nile Waterway. The French had been approaching from the West, from the Upper Congo, and the Russians had also been making efforts to secure influence in Abyssinia and to thus approach the Nile from the East. So long as the Italians were in the country it was difficult for us to intervene. Now, however, that Italy was retiring, it was absolutely essential, if we wished to secure our influence over the Soudan and rescue that country from the evil rule of the Mahdi, and to prevent other great Powers from obtaining a dominant influence over the Upper Nile region, that we should be on good terms with the Abyssinian ruler.

Mr. J. DILLON (Mayo, E.) said that before he submitted the Motion on the Paper in his name, to reduce the salary of the British Agent in Egypt by £1,000, he wished to refer to one or two other matters. The Abyssinian ruler and his people were intelligent men, and they were not likely to forget that when they were in a desperate fix to save their country from the Italians, this country went to the rescue of the Italians, and did everything in their power to help them. The House was told that one of the objects of the expedition to Dongola was to help the Italians—

Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett.

*Sir E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT: Against the Dervishes, not against the Abyssinians.

*Mr. CURZON said that the statement was that one of the objects of the expedition was to relieve the position of the Italians at Kassala, which had nothing to do with Menelik.

Mr. DILLON said that the Italians would never have been in any difficulty at Kassala but for their defeat by the Emperor Menelik. That Monarch and his nation were far too intelligent to be taken in by any humbug of that kind. He knew everything that was going on in this Parliament, and what was the avowed intention of this Parliament. The Abyssinians knew perfectly well what the meaning of all these missions was. He desired to say a word with reference to the Ambassador at Constantinople. He did not intend to make any attack upon him, for he had acted very well in difficult circumstances. He wished to call attention to his action in regard to the massacres at Tokat. The responsibility for that massacre had been brought home to the Sultan, and that House was told at the beginning of September that, at least, in the case of Tokat, exemplary punishment was to be meted out to the murderers. Of course, the usual result had followed. No one was punished. But when, two minutes ago a question was put in the House as to the result of certain pressure put on the Court of the Sultan, and although the Foreign Office telegraphed several times to ascertain that result, for a fortnight or three weeks no reply was received from Sir P. Currie; but at length a reply was received declaring that the Ambassador was putting no further pressure. He wished, therefore, to ask whether anything further had occurred in relation to those massacres, and what further action the Ambassador had taken. He had now to move the reduction of the salary of the British Agent in Egypt. That official occupied an extraordinary position—a position quite apart and different in its functions from that of any other official whose salary came under this Vote. He was neither an Ambassador, a Consul, or Minister-Plenipotentiary, and he had not yet been able to discover what was the position of Lord Cromer in Egypt. He was in point of fact a kind of Khalif or Governor General in Egypt without responsibility. He really ruled Egypt, and if the actual ruler differed from Lord Cromer he had immediately to give up his own view and adopt Lord Cromer's. Lord Cromer's position was exceptional, in fact unique, and he contended that the proper course for the Government to adopt would be to make their statement on Egyptian affairs on the vote for Lord Cromer's salary. He expected to hear some justification for, or explanation of, the action of the Government last year, when upwards of a million was expended on the advance on Dongola. He also wanted to have some information as to the probable policy of the Government in Egypt in the coming autumn.

*The CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS: Order, order! Questions of this kind have always been raised on the Foreign Office Vote, and that would be the proper place for the discussion of this subject. The hon. Member has been quite in order in drawing attention to the particular and abnormal position—as he describes it—of Lord Cromer in Egypt, but any general discussion of the policy of the Government in Egypt ought to be raised on the Foreign Office Vote.

Mr. DILLON said that the state of affairs was curious. When an advance was made into the Soudan, it was said not to be the act of the British Government, but of the Egyptian Government, and the advance was carried out by the Egyptian Army, which was paid out of the Egyptian Treasury. He did not think that an expedition of that kind could properly be debated on the Foreign Office Vote, because that Office had always disclaimed direct responsibility for the action of the Egyptian Government. The only connecting link, as far as he knew, between that House and Egypt was the Vote for the salary of Lord Cromer, who was responsible in some obscure way for the action of the Egyptian Government. The Foreign Office was not responsible for these expeditions.

*The CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS: I do not think that question could be properly raised on this Vote. Lord Cromer is the agent of the British Government in Egypt, and of course he would only carry out the instructions given him by the Foreign Office, and it is on the Foreign Office Vote that a discussion on the subject of any further expedition in the Soudan would properly be raised.

Mr. DILLON intimated that in accordance with the Chairman's direction he would raise the question on the Foreign Office Vote. For the present he contented himself with moving to reduce the Vote by £1,000 in respect of the salary of the British Agent in Egypt.

Question put, "That Item A (Salaries), be reduced by £1,000, in respect of the Salary of the British Agent in Egypt."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 36; Noes, 225.—(Division List, No. 243.)

*Mr. J. A. PEASE rose to move a reduction of the Vote as a protest against the policy which had been indicated by the Government in continuing to hand over fugitive slaves who sought shelter among the missionaries in the ten mile strip of territory on the East Coast of Africa, and in allowing them to be sent back to their previous owners. He maintained that the position assumed by the Under Secretary in defence of the policy ought not to be allowed to continue. They objected to slavery on moral grounds, and there seemed to be a difference among the Law Officers of the Crown with regard to the illegality of slavery in this strip of territory.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL (Sir Richard Webster, Isle of Wight): Certainly not.

*Mr. J. A. PEASE said that he understood the Under Secretary to quote the view of the Attorney General, in which the hon. and learned Gentleman stated that the laws of the Sultan operated, that it permitted slavery to exist, and that fugitive slaves could be handed back.

*Mr. CURZON: I never said anything of the kind.

*Mr. J. A. PEASE said he was speaking in the recollection of the House, and he had no desire to misrepresent the right hon. Gentleman. He hoped the Attorney General would now explain his own views, but certainly the Under Secretary had stated there was no illegality, and that he was supported in that view by the Attorney General. What was the case? A slave ran away and sought the protection of missionaries; the Administrator thereupon sent a letter to demand the slave with a view to his being handed over to his previous master. That course the Under Secretary had defended, and reiterated the statement that the Administrator had orders to use his discretion in each case as it arose. The Under Secretary had justified mainland slavery on several grounds. The first was that slaves were illegally detained on the islands, but on the mainland most were legally detained. Such an argument obviously carried no weight. The Under Secretary quoted Sir John Kirk's views as opposed to abolition, whereas he had an opposite impression from communications he had had with Sir John Kirk. The Under Secretary argued that two years had only elapsed since they could have done anything. That, however, was no excuse, for their predecessors the Imperial British East Africa Company were prepared to grant freedom to slaves at the time the Government took over the control. So, actually, the Government were not even prepared, with all their power, to do that which a private company would have done towards the abolition of slavery. Lastly the Under Secretary used as a justification for the continuance of slavery that there had been an Arab revolt, but, as he admitted that had been quashed there could be no longer any force in so feeble an argument. The facts were that the Government were prepared to leave the matter to solve itself, and did not propose to extend the decree of April 5th to the mainland. He therefore moved a reduction of £100 in respect of the Agent and Consul General at Zanzibar.

Sir JOHN KENNAWAY (Devon, Honiton) said that ever since he had been in the House of Commons he had been looking forward to the abolition of slavery on this coast, and it was more particularly with the view to our being able to effect this that the Government were supported in undertaking the great responsibilities on this coast. While wishing to give all credit to the Government in avoiding slave labour on the Uganda Railway, he yet maintained that this question of making British officers responsible for handing back slaves was one which the country felt very strongly [*Cheers.*] The country would say that, though Mohammedan law might nominally prevail in this territory, yet, considering what we had done for the Sultan and the country, we were responsible, and the people of the country would expect the Government at the very earliest moment to put an end to British officers and soldiers being employed to give back slaves to their masters. ["Hear, hear!"]

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON (Tower Hamlets, Poplar) said he was anxious to treat this matter apart from all Party considerations. He endorsed the appeal of the last speaker in the hope that the Government might even now be able to reconsider the subject. The Foreign Office had been for some time past, under the late as well as the present Government, rather slow in coming to a conclusion with regard to the slaves in the island. After all, we were the responsible and governing authority in this region, and it was against all our traditions for many years past that fugitive slaves should be handed back to their masters. Though rose-coloured accounts had been received from certain quarters as to these slaves, in his judgment the evidence of the independent Commissioner sent out by the Government was absolutely conclusive against the system being allowed further to prevail.

The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.) thought that the hon. Gentleman's speech might give a wrong impression to the Committee as to the views of the Government on this subject. The hon. Gentleman appeared to be anxious to obtain a pledge for the purpose of reassuring the Committee and to remove the suspicion that the Government were in favour of the perpetuation of slavery on the mainland at the moment we were abolishing it in the islands. He need hardly say that this Government or any other Government representing a majority of the Parliament of this country, was desirous to abolish slavery and all the evils attendant upon it in any part of the world where British influence was supreme.

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON said that the chief point he was anxious to enforce was the question of time. What he wanted was a reconsideration of the question to see whether at an earlier moment than was to be anticipated from the speech of the Under Secretary the status of slavery might not be altered.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY quite accepted the explanation. Those, who like the hon. Gentleman and other Members who had studied the question, were aware of the inherent difficulties which must attach to the position of the suzerain power under whose ægis, as it were, the laws, in this case Mahommedan, were administered. That was the actual position upon the mainland. He was not going to dwell upon the difficulties of the situation, it was quite enough to admit that those difficulties existed, and to ignore them would not be to hasten the abolition of slavery, but to make the cause of the abolition of slavery to be attended by more than the ordinary difficulties which necessarily accompany so great a change in the civil status for so large a portion of the inhabitants of the country. But the Committee might take it from him that the Government were earnestly desirous, at the earliest possible opportunity, to carry out on the mainland of the East Coast Protectorate what they had already carried out or were in process of carrying out, upon the island. It would, indeed, be a mistake to suppose that they regarded it as part of the permanent policy of this country to maintain in any district under our control an institution so alien to our traditions, our wishes, and our whole habits of thought, as the institution of slavery.

SIR ROBERT REID (Dumfries Burghs), reminded the Leader of the House that whatever might be the laws prevailing in Zanzibar, there were many Statutes, including those relating to slavery, which were binding personally upon British subjects wherever they were. ["Hear, hear!"] Whether it was in Constantinople or in any corner of the globe, wherever a British subject bought a slave he was committing an offence against British law, and would be justly punished for his offence. He begged to affirm his opinion that if what he was informed was being done in Zanzibar was true, it was contrary to law. When he was Attorney General he took pains to ascertain what the law was and, in answer to a question, stated that

"it was unlawful for any British subject to accept, receive, or detain, against his will, any person as a slave within the territories of the Sultan of Zanzibar."

The Attorney General, he was sure, would confirm him in the opinion that such was the law.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: I said so in this House the other day.

SIR ROBERT REID went on to say that nevertheless, as he was informed, letters were directed by the British Commissioner to missionaries who were British subjects,—

"Please give bearer facilities to search for runaway slaves wanted by the Commissioner."

What was that but "detaining"—for being party to detaining was just the same as detaining—"against his will the person of a slave?" It was keeping the slave until he could be restored to his master. If that was the case he hoped the Under Secretary would take the opinion of the Law Officers of the Crown as to whether it did not constitute a plain defiance of the laws of this country, which, being outside his discretion, he was bound to see carried out.

MR. W. S. ROBSON (South Shields) called attention to the fact that the Under Secretary of State had vouched the opinion of the Attorney General as being in favour of the retrocession of fugitive slaves who were British subjects, to their owners. If the Attorney General had given such an opinion it was well that it should be expounded and defended in the House of Commons at once; if not it would be well if the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs would reconsider the position of the Government, and, at all events, exonerate the Attorney General from complicity in what would be a breach of Excise law. ["Hear, hear!"]

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL suggested that before the hon. and learned Member talked about complicity in breaches of English law he should take some pains to inform himself of the facts, because he had already stated that it was unlawful for a British subject to detain a slave. If a British subject did, in fact, detain a slave, it mattered not whether in a foreign country or on British territory, that was not in accordance with law; but he must add that, upon the evidence before him, nothing of the kind had been done. There were many questions which might arise in a country like Zanzibar. For instance, it was well known that slaves sometimes ran away because they had been guilty of theft or of something even worse, and in order to evade being dealt with for their crime, they set up the plea that they were runaway slaves. In his opinion the allegation that British officers had held or detained fugitive slaves as such was not warranted by the facts. It was perfectly plain that British officers administering the law of the Sultan were obliged to do many things which would not be in accordance with English ideas, but they would not be justified, under cover of that authority, in committing an act which would be contrary to British law. [*Cheers.*] He declined, however, to condemn British officers for that which might, in fact, be only the proper enforcement of the criminal law against offenders who happened to be runaway slaves.

MR. T. R. LEUTY (Leeds, E.) had understood the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs to say that any slave who went across the ten-mile strip of territory became immediately free, and would not be made a slave again, and yet the right hon. Gentleman went on to argue on the great difficulty surrounding the matter because of the question of compensation. But surely slaves held on a tenure such as that by which they could so easily obtain their freedom did not constitute property in respect to which claims to high compensation could be set up. It was disappointing to note the airy manner with which the Under Secretary treated the ethical side of the question. It was a shock to the lay mind to find that the status of slavery was recognised as legal at all. In the long past this country had made the proud boast that once a slave set foot on British territory he became free, and there was a rude awakening from that idea when the country learned that instructions were given to British officers that, under certain circumstances, slaves taking refuge on British ships should be given back to their masters. That aroused a very strong feeling throughout the country, and he was quite sure that if there was any extension of the recognition of slavery, and if slaves were to be treated by English officers different from free men, a strong feeling in the country would rise against it. He would very much like to see the Government make a strong stand in this matter in a manner worthy of this country's noble history in regard to slavery. Millions the country had spent in freeing slaves, and we policed the ocean to suppress slave traffic, and it was a shock to find that in any legal sense the status of slavery was recognised under British influence. Opponent of the Government as he was, he appealed to them to act in accordance with the best traditions of the English nation in this matter.

*SIR C. DILKE, before a Division was taken, desired to say a word on the question of fact raised by the Attorney General. Documents at the disposal of the House and letters from Bishop Tucker made it perfectly clear that in the licenses to search for runaway slaves there were no allegations that such slaves were accused of criminal conduct. Bishop Tucker had sent the actual documents issued in the British East Africa Protectorate addressed to the Rev. A. J. Smith and others, stating that the bearer had permission to search for his master's slaves, so many in number, and these, if found, were to be brought to Mombasa in charge of the soldiers, and these warrants were signed, "J. W. T. McClellan, Assistant District Officer." Other letters there were stating that similar permission had been given to persons named to search for slaves, and it was stated that in scores of cases slaves had been handed over upon documents of this kind, a fee of two rupees being levied on the issue of each permit. The case was clear beyond all doubt, and came within the definition laid down by the Attorney General. Bishop Tucker had given orders to refuse to hand over slaves in this manner, but that the missionaries were called upon to hand over slaves and up to December last did so there was no doubt whatever, and but for Bishop Tucker's action, the practice would have continued. ["Hear, hear!"]

*MR. CURZON said the action of the Government was taken on the merits of the case, and had nothing to do with the action of Bishop Tucker, of which he had heard for the first time from the right hon. Baronet. In the instructions given, the Commissioner was directed to use his discretion in each case, and, as the Attorney General had said, circumstances might arise in relation to a particular case upon which the Commissioner must exercise that discretion. Certainly it was never meant and never understood that the Commissioner should act in a manner not in accordance with the law as explained by the Attorney General.

CAPTAIN BETHELL said before a Division was taken he would like to ask a question, the answer to which might justify him in voting for the Government. Would his right hon. Friend bring the state of the law, as expounded by the Attorney General, before the officers intrusted with the administration of affairs? That would remove any difficulty any Member of the Committee might feel about giving his vote.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY said certainly if there was any doubt on the subject that doubt should be removed. The Committee might take it that the Government would certainly not sanction any illegality. The suggestion that they would do so in their instructions was intrinsically absurd, and scarcely needed denial. The Committee might accept a complete assurance that it should be made clear to all engaged in administration on the spot that no breach of the law would be permitted. ["Hear, hear!"]

*MR. J. H. YOXALL (Nottingham, W.) said the Committee had been given to understand that the British Commissioner would be told that it was wrong for him to assist the recapture of slaves within the ten miles strip of territory. But that applied only to British subjects, and not to natives under British administration. The Commissioner should be instructed not to take any steps to obtain the return of slaves through the instrumentality of British or native subjects.

MR. SYDNEY GEDGE (Walsall) hoped that there would be added to the very satisfactory statement of the First Lord of the Treasury an assurance that forms of licence to search for slaves should not be issued, and that no Court presided over by an Englishman should enter into the question whether one man had right of possession of another as a slave. ["Hear, hear!"]

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.) said Bishop Tucker was now in this country, and he had more knowledge of this subject than anybody else. They were all at one in the desire to abolish slavery; would the Government consent to postpone the Vote until Bishop Tucker had had an opportunity of reading the Report of the discussion? It would show the *bonâ fides* of the Government in reference to a question upon which Bishop Tucker held such a strong opinion that his conduct was guided by considerations higher than any human law.

MR. PARKER SMITH hoped the Committee would consider the assurances of the Government as satisfactory, as they certainly appeared to himself to be. He confessed he thought assurances were necessary in this matter, having regard to the position we occupy on the East Coast of Africa. Two assurances had been given that the efforts of the Government should be directed to the abolition of slavery on the mainland as well as on the island, and that any illegality in connection with the subject should so far as our authority extended be put a stop to.

Question put, "That Items P and Q (Salaries and Allowances) be reduced by £100 in respect of the salary of the Agent and Consul General at Zanzibar."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 72; Noes, 124.—(Division List, No. 244).

*MR. EDWARD MOON (St. Pancras, N.) said he was very anxious to draw attention to an anomaly which existed at Shanghai, owing to the fact that the Consul General and the Chief Justice were the same person. There were several reasons why this state of things, which had gone on for some ten years, should cease to exist. In the first place, the Supreme Court of Shanghai was a Court not in a British colony it was true, but it was a British Court which had a great amount of prestige in the Far East; and, therefore, he thought the Committee would agree with him that it was exceedingly desirable that the head of the Court should be a lawyer, who had not been merely called to the Bar, but one of considerable forensic experience. The present occupant of the office had that experience, but if the present state of things continued the office was open to members of the Consular Service who had only acquired what he might call a bare qualification. There was the further strong objection, that if one individual held the two offices his duties might conflict, the Chief Justice being liable to sit in judgment on the action or the recommendations of the Consul General. Financial reasons might underlie the situation, but the thing had only to be stated to the Committee to convince it how undesirable the present arrangement was. Full details could be found by hon. Members at p. 37 of Mr. Brenan's recent report. He should like also to refer to the Chefoo question. Earlier in the Session he asked a Question based on information which he now admitted to have been in some respects erroneous and exaggerated. But he thought the Under Secretary had unduly minimised the risks to which the property of British subjects was exposed of being taken from them in order to be handed over to officials or nationals of another Power. He congratulated the Foreign Office and the Legation at Peking that they had prevented this taking place and had caused the land so taken to be diverted to public purposes and to public purposes only. As to the Item £600 for new posts to be established on the West River and in Corea, perhaps the right hon. Gentleman would give some details. They all regarded with satisfaction the announcement of the treaty under which the West River was to be opened to the trade of the world; and, perhaps, the occasion would be suitable for the right hon. Gentleman to say a word on that point. There was an important recommendation in Mr. Byron Brenan's valuable Report that a commercial Attaché for China should be appointed. We had such an officer in France and Persia, and he ventured to think that when the wants of China became more pressing, as railways were built and the country opened, a similar appointment to the Chinese Court would not be unsuitable. It was well known to hon. Gentlemen who studied Chinese matters that a German gentleman of great distinction and influence in China held a position at Peking on behalf of his country as the commercial adviser. His influence was very great at Peking, and when they read, as they did yesterday, in a letter to *The Times* from their correspondent at Peking, that it was difficult for any persons who were not Russians to get concessions in the provinces of Chili and Kirin, he thought the need of such an officer had already made itself felt. That need was also reported on and commented on by the China Association, a body which commanded the respect of both the House and the Foreign Office, as well as by Mr. Brenan.

SIR ALBERT ROLLITT (Islington, S.) desired to refer to the subject of a most important Parliamentary Paper recently issued, namely, that on Diplomatic and Consular assistance to British trade abroad. On many previous occasions it had been necessary to be critical and often censorious on this subject. Their complaint had been that the British Government had not realised so much as other Governments the duty either of promoting trade generally or of giving it sufficient State assistance abroad, or even supporting these private individual rights which frequently had to be asserted against the influence of foreign Governments in commercial transactions. He was now glad to be able to acknowledge in the fullest terms the action of the Foreign Office in desiring to promote trade generally and in supporting British commercial interests —he did not mean in the shape in which it was frequently desired, and in the way that was most undesirable, namely, in obtaining concessions and the like, but supporting British interests in disputes with foreign Governments and the subjects of foreign Powers where advantage was being taken of legitimate British rights. He should like to point out that during the last year or two very important departures had been made by different Departments of the Government in support of British commerce. Probably no State Paper had ever been issued which from the commercial point of view had greater importance than that which was issued by the Secretary of State for the Colonies when he wrote a Dispatch to our Colonial Governors asking them to report where British industry was being displaced, and to furnish information for the guidance of our men of business as to the mode in which such displacement could be rectified. There could be no doubt that for a long time past in our own Colonies even, British trade had been very seriously displaced. It was not surprising it should be so. In foreign countries they had commercial museums, such as that at Frankfort. In addition to that, foreign Governments, rightly or wrongly, at great expense, subsidised lines of steamers, gave bounties to ships and commerce, and a very high system of education, both technical and general, combined with the State action in supporting these industries, had been the means of very largely displacing some portion of British industry. The Secretary for the Colonies had realised that, and most appositely in these times, when they looked forward to commercial union, had issued a Dispatch which had told them what had taken place to meet that class of competition. The right hon. Gentleman was good enough to consult the London Chamber of Commerce, and the result was that the Governors had sent home an infinity of products with full particulars as to prices and duties, the difference between the duty and the price, and so on, and the demand for the articles in foreign countries. These products had been exhibited in the London Chamber of Commerce and various parts of the country, and had elicited a great amount of interest. The practical and commercial result of this course had been that they had learned that in various branches of trade, while German goods had been supplied in the colonies, the people of this country could do the work in many instances better and cheaper if they only adapted themselves to the requirements of foreign countries. He wished to acknowledge that departure of the Colonial Secretary, and to thank him on behalf of the commercial interests for what had been of the greatest value. He hoped this was only some step towards the establishment of travelling commercial museums, like that which they saw at Brussels. He wished to offer the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs his heartiest acknowledgments for the action he had taken on behalf of British trade generally, and in support of British interests where they were improperly assailed. The right hon. Gentleman suggested that regulations for the guidance of the Consular and diplomatic staff might possibly be revised by information given by the Chambers of Commerce. The regulations had accordingly been carefully examined, and had been found to be far less onerous than many of them had supposed. The Chambers of Commerce had specifically stated in what respects British trade could be aided, and he was quite confident that most valuable information would be brought into this country now that the regulations had been supplemented by practical commercial information. He should like to support what had been said by his hon. Friend who spoke last as to what had been done recently by the Foreign Office to promote trade in the far East, where the Blackburn Chamber of Commerce had done so much to send out a mission—similar to one sent out by the State with State help in the case of France. He re-echoed the hope that they should have more commercial representatives. He did not go so far as the Blackburn Chamber of Commerce, which desired a commercial *attaché* to every Embassy, but he did think there should be some one person in every great Embassy with special commercial and practical business knowledge. He should like to pay a tribute to the Consuls in relation to their reports, in which there had been great improvements, and which were now largely read and appreciated by the commercial community to whom they were very useful. He suggested that there might be a larger number of special reports upon particular branches of industry located in foreign countries. What he had said with regard to the diplomatic service applied even more forcibly to the question of Consuls, and he hoped the time would come when commercial knowledge would be the first requisite of a Consul. There was only one other point to which he wished to allude, and that was to utter a word of approval on what had been done by the Foreign Office with regard to international exhibitions. The country which isolated itself and did not take part in these international competitions was one which was not unlikely to suffer injury. He thanked the Foreign Office for what they had done in regard to two such exhibitions recently, and pointed out what was done by foreign countries in this regard, and urged that greater support in this direction by the Government would do much to promote and advance British trade and commerce in foreign markets.

MR. J. BRIGG (York, W.R., Keighley) commended the services of commercial Attachés abroad in obtaining patterns of manufactured goods made in foreign countries. But when the patterns reached this country there should be more discrimination as to where they were sent. They should be sent where they would be most useful. In the district he represented the reports of our Consuls and Agents abroad were relegated to the trades most interested in them. A good beginning had been made in the commercial exhibitions that had taken place. When the Chancellor of the Exchequer realised the importance attached by traders in this country to special reports from foreign countries on trade matters, he hoped he would see his way to provide the necessary funds. In the main he supported the remarks of the hon. Member for Islington as to the service the Foreign Office had rendered to the interests of British trade.

Mr. T. W. LEGH (Lancashire, Newton) said that, able as our commercial Attachés were, it was impossible to expect them to report in detail on the trades of several countries. One man could not look after the trade of an entire continent. Reports on particular trades should be made by persons conversant with those trades. The reports of the commercial Attachés were read simply because they were made by commercial Attachés. If the right men were appointed as Consuls, Consular Reports would be of great value. He hoped that in future the Foreign Office would take greater care in the appointment of Consuls abroad.

*Mr. CURZON said that the hon. Member for North St. Pancras had spoken of the desirability of separating the offices of Chief Justice and Consul-General at Shanghai. These two posts were at present held by one person, the appointment having been made some years ago as an experiment. But it had not been altogether successful, and a Committee appointed by the Foreign Office was considering a scheme for separating the two offices, the blending of which had caused some confusion. With regard to the opening of the West River for trade purposes, that was a result which he was glad they had been enabled to secure by the convention which had been agreed upon with China in relation to Burma, and the Estimates provided for the expense of establishing the necessary Consular posts on that river as well as at the new Treaty Ports opened by the Treaty of Shimonoseki with Japan. In reply to the hon. Member for Islington, the Foreign Office appreciated the favourable opinion he had formed of their work during the past few years. He agreed with him as to the importance of commercial Attachés. He also agreed with the hon. Member for Newton that it was most important to get the right kind of men to fill Consular positions. But it should be remembered that in the majority of cases the main duties of Consuls were other than commercial, and that they could not organise the whole Consulate system on a commercial basis. He was anxious to extend the system of special representatives for commercial work, and much had already been done in that respect. Europe had been subdivided into five commercial Attachéships by the present Government, as compared with two when they assumed office. As to the institution of a commercial exhibition, the President of the Board of Trade had taken great interest in the matter. He had been in communication with the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Foreign Office, and a Committee was considering a development of the scheme. It was hoped by the President of the Board of Trade that a commercial museum on a considerably larger scale might be established in London, and that an attempt might be made to affiliate to it subordinate museums in different parts of the country for the circulation among industrial communities of the samples which came primarily to London. It was also in contemplation to send competent persons to Central and South America to see what opening there might be for British trade there and for the development of the interests of British commerce. This showed that the Foreign Office was keenly alive to the commercial interests of this country, and he hoped it would continue to deserve the appreciation that had been so liberally expressed. ["Hear, hear!"]

Mr. J. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.) testified to the excellence and value of the Reports on commercial matters of the members of the Consular and Diplomatic Services. They were valuable records of the commercial progress of the world. He agreed that it would be well if more care were exercised in the selection of men for appointment as Consuls. They need not be commercial experts, but they should be men whose training and experience as a whole fitted them to bring a well-trained mind to bear upon the discharge of their duties. They might have a man with a certain commercial knowledge, well fitted to go to a foreign country to make reports and convey useful intelligence to our merchants at home, who had never been in an office. There was the question whether there should be a commercial

Attaché for every legation or embassy, or whether they should not have persons specially charged with the duty of making commercial reports attached to the representative embassies. That was the line which Lord Rosebery and himself were inclined to take up when the subject was examined in 1886. The proposal was made by a very distinguished public servant, and he was delighted to hear that we had now five of these special Attachés. He hoped it would be possible to provide specially trained commercial men to visit every important group of markets, and that something of the kind would be done in the Far East. He believed the commercial community appreciated what had been done, and that the old reproach that the Foreign Office disdained commerce had long since ceased to be true. He would ask the right hon. Gentleman whether he could tell them anything as to the progress of negotiations in the East for the settlement of peace between Greece and Turkey.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS said that the question was not in order. The question of general foreign policy arose under the Foreign Office Vote.

MR. BRYCE said he would ask the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs how soon it was proposed to send out the special Attachés who had been mentioned?

*MR. CURZON said he was afraid he could not answer the question. The scheme was under discussion between the President of the Board of Trade, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the Foreign Office, and he could not say anything at present beyond the fact that they hoped that such an expert or such a mission would be sent.

Vote agreed to.

2. £117,463, to complete the sum for Uganda, Central and East Africa Protectorates, and Uganda Railway.

3. £64,876 (including an additional sum of £1,950), to complete the sum for Colonial Services, including South Africa.

*SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT asked the right hon. Gentleman for some information as to the progress of the Uganda Railway, the present position of British control and influence over the southern portion of the White or Upper Nile, that part nearest to Uganda, and also as to the present position of the French forces in those regions nearest to the Upper Nile. The progress of the Uganda Railway appeared to him to be rather slow. The French expedition of which they had heard so much two or three years ago, was then supposed to be moving towards the western side of the Upper Nile waters from the direction of the Ubanghi river.

*MR. CURZON said he could give no answer to the last question, because they had no information as to the whereabouts of the French force which was stated to have left French territory some time ago; what had become of it they did not know. With regard to the Uganda Railway, the progress made had been rather slow. He thought the railway was made now for 60 miles, and the line was not only surveyed but laid out for construction for a very much greater distance. The reason for the somewhat slow progress had been the difficulty of getting native labour; a large number of coolies were imported from India, but required some little time to become accustomed to the climatic and local conditions. At the present moment, however, there were several thousands of men at work, and the last report was distinctly encouraging. Full information on these points would be given in the report which would be published shortly. As regarded our position in the Nile valley, he believed that our effective control of the Nile valley extended to the neighbourhood of Dufile.

*SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT said he was anxious to know whether his right hon. Friend could give him any information of a definite kind as to the position of the French expedition.

*MR. CURZON was understood to say he could not do so.

*SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT said he would repeat the question at some future date.

*SIR C. DILKE said he had asked a question with regard to this expedition with reference to the recent statement made by a French Minister.

On the return of the CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS after the usual interval,

*SIR C. DILKE said he desired to draw attention to certain matters which concerned the Windward and the Leeward Islands. In the case of St. Vincent and some of the other islands certain legislation had been passed during the last year which had had a beneficial effect, and he believed that land legislation had been drafted, and was under the consideration of the Secretary of State for the Colonies at the present time. When Sir Charles Bruce left there was a deputation to him which, he believed, represented a good deal of feeling in the Windward Islands. On that occasion Sir Charles Bruce used these words with regard to a wider system of representation in the government of those islands:—"I am quite ready, myself, to carry on the government under any form which may be ordered by the authorities at home." He added that a free system of legislation under representative institutions had been a success in certain colonies which he named, rather implying that, as far as he was concerned, he saw no objection to the introduction to those of the Windward Islands, where the government was purely nominated at the present time a freer system of government. Sir Charles Bruce also stated that on going home he expected he should have conferences at the Colonial Office with the Secretary of State, and he should like to know whether, as a result of those conferences, either with regard to the land legislation or to the introduction of a more representative element into the constitutions of the islands which were purely nominative, the Secretary of State had anything to tell them in advance of what he was able to tell the House last year. At the present moment these islands were variously governed. Taking the West Indies generally, the Barbados had a purely representative government, but the Windward Islands had all got a purely nominated government. There lay among them the French island of Martinique, which had manhood suffrage, which returned senators and deputies to the French Chamber, and which had a Conseil-Général, elected by manhood suffrage, who carried on the affairs of island with perfect satisfaction to everybody. As regarded the Leeward Islands the assemblies were purely nominated, and two others were partly nominated and partly elected. He believed that in a few days they would have the report of the Committee which had been investigating the sugar industry in the West Indies and, very possibly, as a result of that report they might be asked to do something for some of these islands. There would, he thought, be a good deal of difficulty in persuading that House to take that course as long as the system of government was one which was in the hands of so limited a class as it is at the present time. There was, he knew. a general impression that the depression in the West Indies was general and universal. That was not the case. There was an increase of trade taken as a whole, but the increase was not in sugar, which used to be the staple industry, but in other productions. In some of the islands the production of fruit had assumed very considerable proportions, and its development was connected with a peasant proprietary, which was declared to be successful by those well acquainted with the islands. There again the development of the peasant proprietary was connected, and must be necessarily connected, with a more democratic system of government. The system in the great majority of the islands was purely nominated, or partly nominated and partly elected, and it seemed to him that the system which existed in the Barbadoes produced very beneficial results. They ought to look ultimately towards the introduction in these islands of a general confederation to make government cheaper, which could hardly be established except on a more representative basis.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.), said there was land legislation going on in connection with these islands, the general tendency of which the home Government desired by every means in their power to foster—legislation intended to encourage small cultivation. ["Hear, hear."] It was evident that a most critical time had arrived with regard to the islands, and if by any means it was possible to encourage small cultivation by the assistance of those who were engaged in it, the home Government would be very glad to give any assistance in their power. They were at all times most anxious to do that, and land legislation with that object had already been sanctioned and, he thought, would have that effect. He did not quite understand the object with which his right hon. Friend had put the question to him with regard to representative Government. Certainly if the West Indies, or any of them, were suffering at the present time it was not for want of wealth of constitutions. It was not for want of a sufficiency of what was possible in the way of representative government. On the contrary, he should say that the defect was quite the other way. They had too much government by what were called representative institutions — by councils and legislatures which were not in any true sense of the word representative.

*Sir C. DILKE said he particularly put the case of Windward, where there was not a single representative Member. They were all nominated.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN asked if his right hon. Friend supposed that the condition of the islands which were not assisted by nominated councils, but which were more or less controlled by so-called representative bodies were in a better condition.

*Sir C. DILKE: Yes. I instanced the case of Barbados.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN said that nothing could be proved by a single illustration, nor did he think the illustration was a good one. He imagined that the inhabitants of Barbados would entirely dispute that they were in a more prosperous and satisfactory condition than the other islands which were deserving of the consideration of that House. The fact was that as a whole the West India islands were at the present moment subject to great depression. No doubt there were differences, but those differences were certainly not in any sense attributable to constitutions or institutions. They were due to differences of climate, of character, and of local circumstances, into which he need not go at the present time. As he had said, he thought the West Indies suffered undoubtedly from a wealth of constitutions. They differed in every island, and he would say that they only agreed in being more or less unsatisfactory to the islanders themselves and also to the home Government. The fact was that a representative government in the true sense of the word was not what was contemplated in the West Indies. It had not been proposed that every inhabitant in the West Indies should have a vote in the same way that every inhabitant in the United Kingdom had a vote. They knew what a government was the electoral constituency of which was a black population.

*Sir C. DILKE: There is the case of Martinique.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN said the government of that island was of a much more arbitrary kind in fact, though not in name, than any of the West India islands under the British Government. ["Hear, hear!"] As regarded the West India islands, it had never been proposed that there should be representative government in the true sense of the word for every separate population, the majority of whom were, of course, of negro blood, nor had it yet been proved in the present state of civilisation that negroes were capable of a satisfactory representative government. What was always meant when representative government was talked of was government by a small oligarchy of planters, assisted, more or less, by lawyers and other persons who, however admirable in themselves, formed at the best only the smallest minority of the population. He thought it would be most unwise to burden them with larger powers than they at present possessed. In some cases the interference of a representative council was not by any means invariably in the interest of the majority of the population; it was the interference of the few, but it was not always for the benefit of the many. He believed that the present system of government was the best security for the happiness and prosperity of the people that could be given. The state of the islands at the present time was one which caused the greatest anxiety to Her Majesty's Government. As his right hon. Friend had said, a Commission had been appointed, whose report would, he believed, command universal respect. As yet he had not seen it and he had not the slightest idea what the nature of it would be. He was awaiting the report with the greatest interest. If it should appear, as might well be the case, that the administration of the islands could not be continued without either some change in our fiscal system or, as an alternative, very considerable grants from the House, the whole circumstances, including the constitution of the islands would have to be carefully considered.

Mr. BUXTON said that his experience at the Colonial Office led him to agree with the Colonial Secretary when he said that we could not devise any really representative system for the West India Islands, particularly the smaller islands, and they could not lay down any general principle as to the way in which the islands ought to be governed. Each island must be treated on its merits. The right hon. Gentleman had said with truth that we had an immense variety of constitutions in the Crown and other Colonies. He was sorry to say that in many cases the constitutions had not been successful in being truly representative, but he did not think the House would vote money for the support of the industries of the West India islands unless the islands had a better representative system than at present. Certainly, if money were granted, it was likely that the House would prefer to see the expenditure of it in the hands of the Colonial Office rather than in those of the small oligarchies who in many cases ruled the islands. He could not upport the right hon. Baronet the Member for the Forest of Dean on the present occasion, not because he was not in favour of representative institutions, but because he believed representative institutions in the West India Islands were absolutely impossible.

Mr. W. F. LAWRENCE thought that any one who had any personal acquaintance with the West Indies would say that the success of Martinque was due to the artificial system the French Government had bolstered up in that island. He believed that the French went so far as to give an honorarium to whoever started factories in Martinique. If the Colonial Secretary would adopt a similar system he had no doubt our colonies would flourish in such a way that they would never need to come to this House for assistance. He was prepared to affirm from personal knowledge that it was not the form of government that really caused non-success. The islands were passing through a great economic change owing to the bounty system which up to recent years had been more or less successful. It was quite a mistake to suppose that the inhabitants wanted extended representation in those various systems of government. They, however, felt that while they were anxious to start and spread a system of small cultivation, it was a thousand pities the larger estates should be ruined by an artificial system.

*Sir C. DILKE said it seemed to be assumed that the choice was between a slight popularisation of the present system of government of the West Indies and direct Crown colony rule. Surely, if the House was asked to vote money in consequence of the report of the commission, there was the alternative of a cheap system of federal government for the whole of the West India Islands, in which, while the varied interests of the islands would be represented, the Colonial Office would retain a really overwhelmingly dominant voice.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN said he was sure that if his right hon. Friend had inside experience of this matter he would not make the suggestion he had just thrown out. Up to the present the attempt to secure more economic administration had been unsuccessful.

Captain BETHELL asked whether the grant of £7,000 for the Bechuanaland Protectorate was to be continued, and whether the right hon. Gentleman could give the Committee any information as to the general condition of the Protectorate? Then he should like to ask him with respect to the Vote whether it was a permanent charge? As to the salary paid to the High Commissioner, he was almost ashamed to think of the number of years which had elapsed since he tried to get some consideration shown to the chiefs.

*The CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS: I do not think that that question arises on this Vote.

Captain BETHELL said his reason for raising it was the large salary paid to the High Commissioner under this Vote.

*The CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS: It would not be in order here.

*Sir E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT: I presume your ruling would also prevent discussion upon the policy of the Government with regard to the Transvaal, although the salary of Her Majesty's agent in the Transvaal is in the Vote.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS said the matter could be discussed on the salary of the Colonial Secretary.

*SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT hoped there would be a full opportunity of discussing the policy of the Colonial Secretary in South Africa, and that discussion would not be burked this year as had been the case last year.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS: That will arise when the Vote comes up.

*SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT said there were one or two minor questions to which he wished to refer. As to the extra allowance to be given to the late High Commissioner, it was, he understood, not included in the Vote.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS: Yes, it is. The hon. Member will find it in a separate paper.

*SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT said he regretted that this extra Vote was proposed. He had intended offering some criticisms upon the policy of the High Commissioner, but as he understood Lord Rosmead was seriously ill, which he much regretted, he would abstain from saying anything upon this extra Vote. He thought it was very evident that Sir Jacobus de Wet had been unfairly treated in being allowed the small pension of £300 a year. With regard to the disturbances in Swaziland the right hon. Gentleman had promised to make inquiries and give them information. He should be glad to hear it from the right hon. Gentleman. All the information which reached him with regard to the treatment of the natives in the Transvaal was of a highly unsatisfactory character. They were suffering from oppression and an injustice almost unparalleled even in the cruel record of the past. He thought the Government might now pay some attention to the situation of the natives in the Transvaal.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS: This should be raised on the Colonial Office Vote.

*SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT: Of course, I bow to your decision. I shall raise it at a later period.

MR. BUXTON asked for information as to the Solomon Islands.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN said that, in answer to the point of the hon. Gentleman opposite, he had to say that he had not had any application for any further removal. If anything of the kind was desired by the islanders, he would be glad to consider the matter. As regarded the Solomon Islands, he had no statement to make, but the Government were in communication with the Australian colonies on the subject of the administration of the islands. He did not think there had been any extension of the disturbances in Bechuanaland, and he thought it was to the credit of Mr. Newton, the administrator, that peace had been so successfully maintained there. As regarded Swaziland, he had not heard of any disturbance calling for any special mention. The Consul there was a permanent officer, and he had been appointed largely to take charge of the interests of the natives. With regard to the remarks of the hon. Member for Sheffield, he recognised the considerateness of the hon. Member in abstaining from any attack or criticism on his conduct in deference to the Jubilee celebrations. No doubt the hon. Member would avail himself of another opportunity to dance upon his prostrate corpse. [*Laughter.*] The hon. Member had referred to the allowance made to Sir Jacobus de Wet. All he had to say was that that gentleman had been extremely well and handsomely treated. While he had never said a word against him, and while he had admitted that he had fully deserved the consideration shown to him, yet he joined the service without any claim to a penny of pension; but, nevertheless, in consequence of the rather exceptional circumstances in which he had been working, the House had voted him an honorarium of £300 a year. With reference to Lord Rosmead, he would only say that he had served his country in numberless important positions with admirable devotion and loyalty. Lord Rosmead had been absolutely true to his Queen and his country, and he thought it was most ungracious of the hon. Member now to take the opportunity of sneering at the allowance the House would be pleased to award him. ["Hear, hear!"] Lord Rosmead went out to South Africa at the special request of the late Government. It was not his wish to go out. It was a duty forced upon him as a servant of the Crown, and he went out at great pecuniary sacrifice. He had occupied for a considerable period and with conspicuous loyalty and ability a most difficult post, and the very least the Government could do in these circumstances would be at all events to minimise the pecuniary loss he had sustained, though they could never adequately express their appreciation of his services. ["Hear, hear!"]

*SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT said the right hon. Gentleman had made a very unfair attack upon him. [MR. CHAMBERLAIN: "No, no!"] He would tell the House exactly what happened in connection with Lord Rosmead. He had intended to oppose the grant of £1,000 to him, and he gave the right hon. Gentleman private intimation of his intention. The right hon. Gentleman then told him of the illness of Lord Rosmead, of which he was unaware. He felt that in these conditions it would be inappropriate for him to criticise Lord Rosmead's conduct as High Commissioner, and he had refrained from doing so. The right hon. Gentleman was not justified in representing that as sneering at Lord Rosmead. There was nothing of the nature of a sneer. The right hon. Gentleman had evidently forgotten that he himself had attacked Lord Rosmead in connection with his appointment.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN: The hon. Member has no right to say that. I did not attack Lord Rosmead. I never said a single word against Lord Rosmead in this House or elsewhere. ["Hear, hear!"]

*SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT: The right hon. Gentleman attacked his appointment.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN: I expressed my opinion at the time as to the policy of the particular appointment, but I never said a single word against Lord Rosmead. I cannot allow the hon. Member to misquote me.

*SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT said that the right hon. Gentleman was not Secretary of State at the time. He spoke as a private Member, and he made a severe attack upon the appointment of Lord Rosmead. He had no wish at all to continue this Question, but the right hon. Gentleman had made a very unfounded attack on him just now, although he had endeavoured to treat Lord Rosmead with the utmost possible consideration. He had made this explanation to the House, and he hoped the House would see that the attack of the right hon. Gentleman was entirely unjustifiable.

Vote agreed to.

4. £1,128, to complete the sum for Slave Trade Services.—Agreed to.

5. £34,100, to complete the sum for subsidies to Telegraph Companies.—Agreed to.

REVENUE DEPARTMENTS.

6. £771,000, to complete the sum for Customs.—Agreed to.

7. £1,721,272, to complete the sum for Inland Revenue.—Agreed to.

Resolutions to be reported To-morrow; Committee to sit again To-morrow.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND) [GRANTS.]

Resolution reported.

"That it is expedient to authorise the payment, out of moneys to be provided by Parliament (a) of an addition to the grant payable to School Boards in Scotland under the proviso to Section sixty-seven of the Education (Scotland) Act 1872, by increasing the sum of seven shillings and sixpence therein mentioned by fourpence for every complete penny by which the School Rate therein mentioned exceeds threepence: provided that the said sum as so increased shall not exceed sixteen shillings and sixpence; (b) of an aid grant to Voluntary Schools in Scotland not exceeding three shillings per child for the whole number of children in average attendance in those schools."

Resolution agreed to. Bill ordered to be brought in by the Lord Advocate and Mr. Anstruther.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND) BILL.

"To amend the provisions of Section sixty-seven of the Education (Scotland) Act 1872, in regard to the additional grant to School Boards, and to provide out of the Exchequer an aid grant for Voluntary Schools in Scotland,"

presented accordingly, and Read the First time; to be Read a Second time upon Thursday next, and to be printed. —[Bill 290.]

Whereupon Motion made, and Question, "That this House do now adjourn"—(*Mr. Hanbury*)—put and agreed to.

House Adjourned accordingly at Five Minutes after Ten o'Clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Friday, 25th June 1897.

HIGHWAYS BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Monday, 12th July.

SALE OF DISTRESS AMENDMENT BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Monday, 26th July.

QUESTIONS.

NILE EXPEDITION (CONGOLESE FORCE).

*Sir CHARLES DILKE (Gloucester, Forest of Dean): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether Her Majesty's Government have received information as to the reported destruction of the expedition of Baron Dhanis towards the Nile at the head of a Congolese force partly enlisted in British Colonies; whether the catastrophe was caused by mutiny; what were the causes of the mutiny; and what number of British subjects have been killed or have disappeared?

The UNDER SECRETARY of STATE for FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Mr. G. Curzon, Lancashire, Southport): We have heard, not of the reported destruction of the expedition of Baron Dhanis, but of the mutiny of the native soldiers in one of the columns under his orders. We have received no information as to the causes of the mutiny, nor do we know whether any British subjects were concerned.

DINGLE HARBOUR (CO. KERRY).

Sir THOMAS ESMONDE (Kerry, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if anything can be done to improve the harbour at Dingle, County Kerry, by extending the present pier and by dredging the harbour; and if he will consult with the Irish Board of Works as to whether their new dredger could be employed for the latter purpose?

The ATTORNEY GENERAL for IRELAND (Mr. J. Atkinson, Londonderry, N.): An inspection of the harbour and pier will be made at an early date, with a view to obtaining precise information as to the necessity for improving the harbour in the manner suggested.

Sir THOMAS ESMONDE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he will take steps to prevent the injury to the fishing about the Dingle peninsula, County Kerry, by the encroachment of steam trawlers?

The ATTORNEY GENERAL for IRELAND: An application to prohibit steam trawling in Dingle Bay has been received, and will be inqured into by the Fishery Inspectors as soon as possible.

Captain DONELAN (Cork, E.): May I ask whether some effective steps will be taken to prevent the encroachment of steam trawlers along the coast between Queenstown and Youghal?

The ATTORNEY GENERAL for IRELAND: That, I take it for granted, will be one of the questions which the Commissioners will inquire into.

EXCHEQUERS OF IRELAND AND GREAT BRITAIN.

Sir THOMAS ESMONDE: I beg to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer why Clauses 4, 5, 6, and 14 of the Act for the Consolidation of the Exchequers of Ireland and Great Britain, 56 Geo. III. c. 98, are no longer enforced; how long have they been in abeyance; and by what Act of Parliament have they been repealed.

*The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER (Sir Michael Hicks Beach, Bristol, W.): Sections 4, 5, and 6 have been repealed by the Statute Law Revision Act of 1873 (36 and 37 Vict. c 91). Section 14 still stands. It enables the appointment of two Irish Lords of the Treasury, but does not make any such appointment obligatory. In the present Government Ireland is represented by Members holding other and more important appointments.

DEPARTMENTAL APPOINTMENTS (INDIA).

Mr. HENRY J. WILSON (York, W.R., Holmfirth): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India if he will explain why, seeing that domiciled Europeans and Eurasians have in the past proved their fitness by meritorious and faithful services for the higher departmental appointments in India, it is contemplated to reserve such appointments for Europeans educated in England, as indicated by the recent Dispatches of the Government of India to the Secretary of State for India?

Mr. CURZON: I have been requested by my noble Friend to answer this Question on his behalf. In reply to this Question I can only say that I have no doubt that the Dispatches to which the hon. Member refers convey correctly the intentions of the Government with regard to the higher appointments to which they apply, though, in the absence of any definite reference to the Dispatches themselves, I cannot say whether their purport is correctly represented in the hon. Member's Question.

BOARDING-OUT ORDERS.

Lord EDMUND TALBOT (Sussex, Chichester): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether, in November 1881, the Local Government Board decided that the boarding-out Orders did not refer only to children boarded out by the guardians from the workhouse, but whenever the guardians granted out-relief to a child living with a person not legally liable for its support, that that child would come under the said Orders?

The SECRETARY to the LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. T. W. Russell, Tyrone, S.): There appears to be no doubt that the Local Government Board expressed the opinion, as stated in the Question, with reference to the effect of the Order issued in 1877 as to boarding out; but, as there was some doubt on the subject, the Order subsequently issued in 1889 was in consequence somewhat differently worded as regards this matter.

ARMY DEFERRED PENSIONS.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether, having regard to the fact that deferred pensions have been granted to soldiers who have served in campaigns prior to the year 1860, but who had left the service on the expiration of their limit or time of service, which did not entitle them to any pension on discharge, the Secretary of State for War will consider the propriety of recommending the grant of deferred pensions on a similar scale to soldiers who have served in India during a portion of the Indian Mutiny and in action during the War of 1860, but who were precluded from seeing active service before the enemy by being detained on garrison duty; and whether, having regard to the fact that the number of these veterans is comparatively very small, and that in many cases their health has been impaired by service in the army at foreign stations, the circumstance of their not holding medals must be regarded as an absolute bar to their obtaining the deferred pensions granted to others in practically analogous circumstances?

The FINANCIAL SECRETARY to the WAR OFFICE (Mr. Powell-Williams, Birmingham, S.): By the term "deferred pensions" the hon. Member appears to mean special campaign pensions which are being awarded to men who possess a medal for a campaign prior to 1860, and who have a total army service of ten years. The condition as to the medal must be maintained. The medal has been awarded to every man entitled to receive it.

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE, DUBLIN.

Mr. MACNEILL: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury (1) whether the Professors of the College of Science in Dublin on entering their offices received a fixed salary, which it was understood would be stationary, the agreement being that a certain number of years should be added to the actual term of years in computing the retiring pension, so that a Professor who had served 25 years without any increase of salary would receive a pension equivalent to 35-60ths of his full pay, and whether it was likewise arranged that the pension be calculated on the sum total, salary and fees combined, of the Professor's emoluments; (2) whether by a recent regulation the Treasury has made a rule, which is retrospective, by which all allowances for good service will be struck out, and the pension calculated on the bare income irrespective of fees; and (3) whether, having regard to the fact that this rule has been made in direct contravention of the agreement under which the present Professors entered their offices, steps will be taken to protect vested interests, and to prevent this rule from being retrospective in its operation?

THE SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. R. W. HANBURY, Preston): Only four of the eight Professorships are pensionable. Those of the Professors appointed before 30th November 1888 are allowed to add seven years, not ten, to their service for calculating their pension. Those appointed since that date enter under a distinct understanding that this special addition would not be granted. This was done to carry out a recommendation of the Ridley Commission. It is contrary to Section 17 of the Superannuation Act of 1859 to reckon fees in calculating the amount of a pension, as only moneys provided out of the Consolidated Fund or the Votes can be reckoned for that purpose. I find, however, that in 1883, by an oversight, one of the Professors was allowed to reckon his fees towards pension, but it cannot be seriously argued that this gives the other Professors a claim to similar treatment. The answer to the two last paragraphs are therefore in the negative.

MR. MACNEILL: Is not the right hon. Gentleman aware that these gentlemen entered upon the distinct understanding that their fees were to be reckoned in the commutation of their pension?

MR. HANBURY: No; on the contrary, they entered upon the distinctly opposite understanding.

LOAN FUND SOCIETIES (IRELAND).

SIR THOMAS LEA (Londonderry, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland (1) if the attention of the Government has been called to the resolutions passed at a meeting of the Belleek Loan Fund Society on the 2nd inst.; and (2) if any action is contemplated in regard to the condition of these societies throughout Ireland?

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND: The reply to the first paragraph is in the affirmative. New rules have been issued by the Loan Fund Board for the guidance of Loan Fund Societies, and these rules substantially embody most of the recommendations of the late Committee of Inquiry. Government are also considering the question of the necessity of further legislation, with a view to strengthen the administration and supervision of the Central Board.

IRISH LAND COMMISSION.

MR. McCARTAN (Down, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will state the number of fair rent appeals from the Sub-Commissions of Down, Antrim, and Armagh heard by the Chief Commission at its recent sitting at Armagh; in how many cases from each of these three counties were the fair rents fixed by the Sub-Commissioners increased by the Chief Commission, and in how many cases in each county were they reduced; and whether these alterations in judicial rents were made on the Report of Court Valuers who had not heard the evidence given before the Sub-Commissioners, and who were not submitted for examination before the Chief Commission?

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND: There were 42 appeals heard at the recent sitting of the Land Commission Court of Appeal at Armagh. In 19 cases from the County Armagh and in seven cases from the County Down the judicial rents fixed by the Sub-Commissioners were increased on appeal, while in one case from the County Down the judicial rent was reduced. In the remaining appeals, the orders of the Sub-Commissioners were affirmed in 14 cases, and in one case the application to fix a fair rent was dismissed. There were no appeals listed for hearing at the sitting referred to from the County Antrim. The decisions were arrived at judicially by the Court in each case after hearing the evidence offered by each party, and having before them the reports made by the Court Valuers, in pursuance of the long established practice.

PUBLIC WORKS AND COMMUNICATIONS (SCOTLAND).

MR. PARKER SMITH (Lanark, Partick): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate what was the actual expenditure during the year 1896-7 under the Vote of £36,200 for the Highlands and Islands of Scotland (Public Works and Communications), and what surplus remains to be surrendered?

*THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire): Subject to audit by the Controller and Auditor General, the actual expenditure during the year 1896-7 was £27,226. 8s. 5d., and the surplus to be surrendered £8,973. 11s. 7d.

STREET DISTURBANCES, DUBLIN.

MR. JAMES DALY (Monaghan, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland (1) whether he is aware that the students of Trinity College, Dublin, attacked with sticks the public in the streets of Dublin on Monday night last; and (2) whether he can say if any arrests were made by the police on the occasion, or will he order the prosecution of these students?

MR. LECKY (Dublin University): Before the right hon. Gentleman answers this Question, may I ask him whether the origin of these disturbances was not an open-air meeting, with a black flag, bearing disloyal inscriptions, which was held in the immediate neighbourhood of the college for the express purpose of putting down all Loyalist demonstrations in Dublin; and whether, as a matter of fact, panes of glass to the value of many hundreds of pounds have not been broken in Dublin in houses in which loyal emblems are displayed?

MR. W. JOHNSTON (Belfast, W.): May I ask if it is not a fact that the Young Men's Christian Association windows were broken, that the windows of the Orange Hall in Rutland Square were also smashed, and that the police were pelted from the National Club next door to the Orange Hall?

MR. JOHN DILLON (Mayo, S.): May I also ask the right hon. Gentleman whether it is not a fact that the first disorder in Dublin was created by the raid of the Trinity College students upon the people? [*Nationalist cheers.*]

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND: In answer to the Question on the Paper I have to say there is no foundation whatever for the statement in the first paragraph of the Question. What occurred on the occasion was this: on Monday night a number of persons assembled in close proximity to Trinity College for the purpose of protesting against the Jubilee rejoicings. Some of the college students, as well as other loyal subjects, were attracted to the spot and cheered for the Queen, but there was no disorder. On the return of the students to the college a drunken man used offensive expressions, at the same time brandishing a stick. He was struck on the head by some one in the crowd outside the college, but there is no reason to believe that the blow was struck by a student. The police were present and prevented any disturbance. No students were arrested on the occasion, as the necessity did not arise; and it is not the intention of the police to take any proceedings against any of the students. In answer to the Question of my right hon. Friend, I believe it is true that riotous bands went through the City of Dublin on that night and attacked the houses of persons who displayed illuminations or emblems of rejoicing on the occasion of the celebration of the Jubilee, and who also attacked the houses of Nationalists who had not hung out black flags or displayed any disloyal emblems. In answer to my hon. Friend behind me, I believe it is the fact that the Orange Hall was stoned and the Young Men's Christian Association building was also stoned, and several persons were attacked in different parts of the City of Dublin whose only offence appears to have been that they cheered for Her Majesty.

*MR. J. G. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty) asked what were the disloyal emblems to which the right hon. Gentleman had referred?

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND: They consisted of "Cheers for Allen, Larkin, and O'Brien," "The Manchester Martyrs," "Remember 1798," and things of that character.

COUNTY MONAGHAN MAGISTRACY.

MR. DALY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that Lord Rossmore, recently appointed Lieutenant of County Monaghan, was a dismissed magistrate; and whether he can state if any similar case of appointing a dismissed magistrate to the Lieutenancy of a county has occurred in Ireland; and, if so, when?

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND: Lord Rossmore was superseded in the Commission of the Peace in November, 1883, and was reinstated in August, 1892. He has for 23 years filled the office of deputy Lieutenant, to which his supersession did not extend. I am not aware of any case similar to that of Lord Rossmore, who, as I have pointed out, though once superseded, held the Commission of the Peace at the date of his appointment to the Lieutenancy of the county, and has never been disturbed in his tenure of the Deputy Lieutenancy.

MR. W. JOHNSTON: Did not Lord Rossmore's dismissal occur under a Home Rule Government, and because——

*MR. SPEAKER intervened, saying that the Question had been fully answered.

SCHOOL CORPORAL PUNISHMENT (SCOTLAND).

SIR CHARLES CAMERON (Glasgow, Bridgeton): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether his attention has been called to a statement made at the last meeting of he Lochgilphead and Ardrishaig School Board to the effect that a girl named Blue had been incapacitated from attending school by the consequences of corporal punishment administered to her by the assistant teacher, and that about a year ago she had been punished by the same teacher so severely that she had been seriously ill for three months; and whether the Procurator Fiscal has made any investigation into the facts of the case?

*THE LORD ADVOCATE: My attention had not been called to the statement referred to. No information was in possession of the Education Department, and no information had been given to the Procurator Fiscal. The result of inquiry made by the Procurator Fiscal since the Question was put on the Paper leads me to the conclusion that the statement is without foundation, and that the authors of it failed to exercise ordinary care in testing its accuracy.

FINANCIAL RELATIONS (GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND).

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury if the terms of reference to the proposed new Commission upon the Financial Relations between Great Britain and Ireland have been finally decided upon; if the Commission has been formed; and when the Debate upon the proposal will take place?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): In answer to the hon. Gentleman's Question, I have to say that the Commission is not yet framed. The delay has been in part owing to the fact that the Party to which the hon. Baronet belongs and other sections of the Party opposite have refused to take any part in the Commission.

MILITARY MANŒUVRES BILL.

SIR JAMES FERGUSSON (Manchester, N.E.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, having regard to the state of Public Business, he can now fix a day for the introduction of the Military Manœuvres Bill?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: As my right hon. Friend is aware, I quite recognise the importance of the subject to which he refers, but I am not able to give any pledge at present.

MOTION.

SUMMARY JURISDICTION ACT (1879) AMENDMENT.

Bill to amend the Summary Jurisdiction Act 1879, ordered to be brought in by Sir Andrew Scoble, Mr. Bucknill, Mr. H. D. Greene, and Mr. Samuel Hoare; presented, and Read the First time; to be Read a Second time upon Wednesday 7th July, and to be printed.—[Bill 291.]

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: Before the Orders of the Day are entered upon, perhaps I ought to say——

*MR. SPEAKER: I must call attention to the fact that it is irregular to interpose a statement between Business appointed "at the commencement of Public Business" and the Orders of the Day; but as I presume the right hon. Gentleman is about to make a statement with respect to the Business of the House, no doubt the House will accord the right hon. Gentleman its indulgence.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: I ought to ask the indulgence of the House. What I have to say has relation to the statement I made yesterday as to Monday's Business. I stated that the first subject for discussion would be the Scotch Education Bill. Subsequently it came to my knowledge that there is a strong feeling among Scotch Members that as the Bill was only printed to-day it would be premature to take the Second Reading on Monday, so in deference to their wishes I propose to defer the Bill to Thursday. On Monday we propose to set down as first Order the London Water Bill, to be followed by the Congested Districts (Scotland) Bill, and third will be some other Bill on the Notice Paper, the Prison-made Goods Bill, or some other Bill of that kind. [*Laughter.*]

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

SUPPLY.

[FOURTEENTH ALLOTTED DAY.]

Considered in Committee.

[The CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS, Mr. J. W. LOWTHER, in the Chair.]

CIVIL SERVICE ESTIMATES, 1897-8.

CLASS II.

1. Motion made, and Question put,

> "That a sum, not exceeding £8,111, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1898, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Office of Her Majesty's Secretary for Scotland and subordinate Offices."

*SIR JOHN LENG (Dundee) dwelt on the convenience and advantage Scotch Members derived under the late Government from the presence of the Secretary for Scotland in the House of Commons. The arrangement greatly facilitated the conduct of Scotch business, giving the opportunity for direct explanation and saving much reference and correspondence. All would recognise the ability and courtesy of the Lord Advocate, but his time was greatly occupied with his legal duties. In moving a reduction of the salary of the Secretary for Scotland, he had no intention to say a single word against him personally, he was most courteous and prompt in his attention to all representations made to him. In the first place he desired to refer to a subject that had emerged since he placed his notice on the Paper. There was very strong and general dissatisfaction with the paucity of honours distributed——

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS reminded the hon. Member that no question of that kind could be raised on the Vote for the Secretary for Scotland's office.

*SIR J. LENG recognised the fact that the Sovereign was the fountain of honour, and was proceeding to refer to matters which had been brought under the notice of the Secretary for Scotland, the arbitrary and capricious dismissals of teachers by School Boards, and the desire of teachers for the establishment of a superannuation fund.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS said these matters should be raised on the Education Vote.

*SIR J. LENG said he would avail himself of the opportunity that Vote offered.

*MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty) regretted that under the present Government the precedent of having the Secretary for Scotland in the House of Commons had been departed from. The hon. Member referred to an item of £100 under the head of incidental expenses in carrying out the provisions of the Rivers Pollution Prevention Act of 1876—an increase of £20. There was also an additional payment of £50 to the inspector. He wished to obtain information as to the cause of these increases; also whether anything had been done to improve the condition of the water of the river Nethy above the village of Causer in the Badenoch district of Inverness-shire. In this case the law had been broken, and he considered that the people of the district should not be allowed to suffer from any neglect of officials who were paid to see that the law was obeyed.

MR. JAMES DALY (Monaghan, S.) was sorry he could not join in the compliments which had been paid to the Secretary for Scotland. He saw that he got a salary of £1,800, and he should pay his own private secretary. He was surprised that the Scotch Members had not taken up this point. This gentleman was paid £150 for his secretary; but judging from his observation of the way in which he discharged his duty, he thought he could do very well without a secretary; and if the Lord Advocate did not see his way to do without this £150, he should be obliged to move the reduction of the Vote by £1,000, according to the notice in his name. He wished to refer to the question of the deportation of paupers from Scotland to Ireland. Since he allowed the Address on the Queen's Speech to pass without a Division, the only opportunity he had of drawing attention to this question was upon the Estimates. The thing to which he alluded was very degrading to Irishmen—it was an insult to them to be told that paupers were sent from Scotland home to Ireland.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS said the question would properly arise on the Vote for the Local Government Board (Scotland).

MR. DALY always had great respect for Mr. Lowther's ruling; at the same time the Lord Advocate answered the questions he put to him on this subject for the Scotch Office, and he had no other opportunity of contesting the matter.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS: The hon. Member will be entitled to raise the question in a few moments when we come to the Vote for the Local Government Board of Scotland. Of course the Lord Advocate replies in this House on behalf of the Local Government Board of Scotland.

MR. DALY bowed to the Chairman's ruling. But he should take his stand now with regard to the private secretary's salary of £150; and if the right hon. Gentleman could not waive this salary, he should think it his duty to move the reduction of the Vote. At present he contented himself with awaiting the Lord Advocate's reply.

THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire) said he was not quite sure to what the hon. Gentleman referred. There was no private secretary in the Estimates with a salary of £150. There was a permanent Under Secretary, with a salary of £1,500.

MR. DALY said he saw on the Estimates an item for the private secretary to the Secretary, £150.

THE LORD ADVOCATE said the salary of the Secretary's private secretary was £300. There was a permanent Under Secretary, a private secretary to the Secretary, and a private Secretary to the Under Secretary. To which did the hon. Member refer?

MR. DALY was referring to the Papers, when

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS repeated that the proper place and time to raise the matter was when the Local Government Board Vote came on.

MR. JOHN DILLON (Mayo, E.) remarked that some time ago the Chief Secretary for Ireland stated that a conference had been proposed on the question of the deportation of paupers. As he understood him, the conference fell through, owing to the action of the Scotch Office.

THE LORD ADVOCATE said he was sure there was a misapprehension. However, the Secretary for Scotland was President of the Local Government Board, and as he understood the right hon. Gentleman's ruling, the point it was desired to discuss would arise on the Local Government Board Vote, and he should then be defending his action as President of the Local Government Board.

MR. T. R. BUCHANAN (Aberdeenshire, E.) asked the Lord Advocate if any further action had been taken during the past year in pursuance of Lord Balfour of Burleigh's statement in the summer of 1895, made at a public meeting, that he was beginning to take action in order to bring about some international arrangement as to the North Sea fisheries. From time to time questions had been asked on the subject, but no progress seemed to be made with the negotations. They had definite information quite recently, that at any rate the Foreign Office had done nothing on the subject; but as Lord Balfour of Burleigh said he was determined to take action on the subject, they would like to know whether any progress had been made in the course of the last year-and-a-half. He knew, of course, that the subject matter of this concerned fishery legislation, but last year, when he raised the question, the Chairman ruled that if he wanted to call attention to the action of the Scotch Secretary on the subject he must do it on the Scotch Vote. He did not wish to criticise adversely the action of the Scotch Secretary. As he understood it, he was the only official of the Government who had endeavoured to do anything; but as far as they knew his endeavours were fruitless. He should like to learn from the Lord Advocate whether there was any prospect of anything being done at an early date to carry out the design of the Act of 1895, with regard to which he thought a peculiar obligation lay on the present Government. They all knew what Lord Balfour's own opinion on the question was, and, seeing the great and the increasing competition in the fishing industry, they would like to be assured that there was some prospect of something satisfactory being done.

THE LORD ADVOCATE said that of course he could only answer as far as the action of the Secretary for Scotland was concerned. He had made every representation in his power as to the desirability of doing something of the sort indicated by the hon. Member. He had made representations to the Foreign Office, and having done that, the matter passed out of his control. No one who looked at the question from the Foreign Office point of view could be surprised that some time had passed without any definite result. It was far from a simple question as between this country and other countries, and even in that House, as the hon. Member knew, they were not all at one upon it. He could only say that the Secretary for Scotland would continue to press the matter in the proper quarter; but so far as results were concerned, it was out of his power to make any promise.

MR. BUCHANAN asked if the Lord Advocate would be prepared to lay upon the Table of the House the correspondence which had passed between the various Departments on the subject, in order that hon. Members might see what were the objections to any action being taken?

THE LORD ADVOCATE could not give any promise, but he thought it would be contrary to ordinary precedents to lay an inter-departmental correspondence of that Government on the Table. However, if the hon. Member put a Question on the Paper on the subject he would be prepared to give him an answer.

*MR. WEIR asked for some explanation as to the increase in the Vote under the head of river pollution.

THE LORD ADVOCATE replied that the slightly increased expenses under that heading was simply because more river pollution inquiries had been required, and as each inquiry led to some incidental expenses the increase was thus accounted for.

MR. JASPER TULLY (Leitrim, S.) asked if they allowed the Vote to pass so far as it related to the salary of the Secretary for Scotland, would they miss the right to challenge his action as President of the Local Government Board?

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS: No; when the Vote for the Local Government Board comes before the Committee the hon. Member and his Friends will be entitled to move a reduction of the Vote asked for in respect of the criticisms they wish to make upon the action of the Secretary of State for Scotland.

MR. TULLY said the Irish Members were anxious to challenge the action of the Secretary for Scotland on the question of the Deportation of paupers to Ireland, and it was, therefore, incumbent upon them to move a reduction of his salary.

MR. DALY regarded the explanation of the Lord Advocate as unsatisfactory and moved to reduce the Vote by £1,000.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS: That must be moved on a subsequent Vote. I cannot accept the Motion on this Vote.

Question put. The Committee divided:—Ayes, 191; Noes, 43.—(Division List, No. 245.)

2. £27,323, to complete the sum for Fishery Board (Scotland).

CAPTAIN PIRIE (Aberdeen, N.) complained that the Scotch Fishery Board had to guarantee half of the outlay on telegraph offices. Even half was too much. There were many good objects to which the Board could devote the money.

*MR. WEIR criticised items in the Vote. £1,500 was said to have been paid under telegraph extension guarantees, when £290. 17s. 1d. seemed to be the actual amount so spent. The Board was either incapable or incompetent, or were attempting to throw dust in their eyes. The funds of the Board had accumulated by £8,000 more than last year. The Board simply set the Scotch Office at defiance. They should be given to understand that they must attend to orders from headquarters and not do what they liked with funds voted by Parliament for specific purposes. £5,000 was put down for a cruiser, but this was wholly inadequate for a suitable cruiser. The late Mr. Esselmont, the former Chairman of the Board, said that a suitable cruiser would cost at least £11,000. If the Fishery Board were responsible in this business, he thought the sooner some of them were out of office the better. He felt bound to refer again to the question of trawling. Unfortunately nothing had been done by those whose business it was to protect the fishermen, and illegal trawling had become very common. He hoped heavier fines would be imposed, and that rules of a more rigorous character would be provided. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would endeavour to get a law passed to punish not only the masters but the owners of these trawlers which committed offences against the interests of the line fishermen.

*MR. THOMAS HEDDERWICK (Wick Burghs) asked for an explanation of the item under the head of Purchase of Vessels. He was chiefly interested in knowing whether these vessels were intended for the protection of the fishermen on the north coast of Scotland. It was extremely desirable that they should know what the speed of these vessels was, as everything depended on speed. He concurred with the hon. Member who had just spoken as to the neglect which had been shown by the Government in respect of the protection of the fisheries on the north coast of Scotland from the depredations of steam trawlers. Instead of the law being maintained at present, the fishermen who were engaged in an honest business were constantly being attacked, and their nets broken by the trawlers. As a matter of fact, the trawlers frequently escaped simply owing to the incapacity of the Government vessels to follow them up. The Government had made it an offence against the law to trawl within certain limits, and having made that law, they were bound to see that it was maintained.

*SIR WILLIAM WEDDERBURN (Banffshire) referred to the extreme need which existed of fishing harbours on the coast of Scotland, and especially on the north-east coast. This was a matter regarding which there was no difference of opinion, and the Fishery Board were extremely anxious to do their duty in the matter, but they had not got the funds. The question was altogether a financial one. He thought it was very discreditable to the Government, who had had an overflowing treasury handed over to them by their predecessors, and had been able to find money for all the powerful and influential classes, that they should not give a single penny when the lives and property of the poor fishermen were in question.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS thought the question which the hon. Baronet wished to raise ought to be raised on the Vote for piers and harbours in the Highlands and islands. If he wished, however, to raise the question as regarded the whole of Scotland, it might possibly arise now.

*SIR W. WEDDERBURN said it was with regard to the claim of the whole of Scotland for proper consideration in this matter that he wished to speak. It might not, perhaps, be known to the Committee that very large sums were originally given for the encouragement of the Scottish fishing industry. At the beginning of this century, no less a sum than £11,000 a year was paid in the shape of bounties to the industry, but in 1824 a fixed grant of £3,000 a year was substituted for these bounties, whereby the fishing industry was deprived of £8,000 a year. What had become of this sum since 1824? In 1858 another change unfavourable to the Scotch fishing industry was made. In that year a fee of fourpence per barrel was charged for branding the herrings, which had previously been done free. No one would complain of the fees, if the money were used for the purpose of developing the fishing industry; but the Government placed as a charge on the fees the permanent salaries of the Fishery Board, amounting to £5,000 a year, and pocketed the remainder. He thought that, considering the great needs of the fishing industry, the Treasury might very well have paid the salaries of its permanent establishments out of its own resources, and leave the herring brand fees for useful public purposes connected with the fishing industry. In 1881 the Treasury so far recognised their duty as to hand over the surplus of the fees to the Fishery Board for the purposes of harbours; but they made no restitution of the fees that had gone into the Imperial Exchequer from 1858 to 1881, amounting to £34,000, which as much belonged to the fishing industry as a house belonged to the man who owned it. There was no justification whatever for the retention of this money, and he claimed in the strongest manner that it should be refunded. The herring brand fees were collected from a harworking class of men who felt the burden keenly. If the money were spent for the good of the industry in which they were engaged they would not complain, but to see a large portion of it swept into the unfathomable gulf of the Imperial Exchequer was enough to disgust any body of men with the Government. Within the last 20 or 30 years fishing boats had immensely increased in size and number. Fishermen were not as hitherto content with fishing near their own shores, but showed great courage and enterprise in going long distances in search of new fishing grounds. The result was that the existing harbours were absolutely insufficient for the needs of the fishermen. In the southern part of the Moray Firth there was not a single harbour into which a fishing boat could run in all stages of the tide. That state of things was most discreditable to the authorities. In 1804 the State gave £11,000 a year to the industry and asked for nothing in return, in 1896 they gave £3,000 with one hand and they took away £5,000 with the other, so that instead of the State giving anything to the fishing industry of Scotland they were actually making a large profit out of it. He had placed these facts and figures before the Secretary for Scotland and they had not been controverted. The noble Lord had suggested that it was a matter that should be referred to the forthcoming Financial Relations Commission, as he doubted whether that could be done having regard to the terms of reference, he would be glad of the opinion of the Lord Advocate on the subject. The fishermen had in the matter of harbours shown a great deal of self-denial and self-help. In many places they had raised locally the amount of money necessary to entitle them to grants from the Fishery Board to improve their harbour accommodation, but in many cases the grants had not been given because the Board had no money. He, therefore, appealed to the Lord Advocate to pluck up courage and insist that this money should be advanced from the Exchequer. They all recognised the services of the hon. and learned Gentleman in the Law Courts in defending the rights of the fishermen in regard to trawling, and if he would but take up the financial question from the legal point of view, and see that justice were done, he would further gain the gratitude of the fishermen.

Sir ROBERT REID (Dumfries Burghs) asked if the Government intended to take any steps towards giving legislative effect to the Report of the Royal Commission on the Solway fisheries, which was appointed two years ago, and reported last July. That Report showed a great mastery of the subject, and he was sure that legislation based on it would give satisfaction, not only to the majority, but to all persons connected with the Solway fisheries. If the Lord Advocate would hold out some hope that next year the Government would introduce a Bill, he would find that no difficulties were thrown in his way.

Mr. BUCHANAN said that the fishing population in north-east Scotland felt most deeply the grievance under which they suffered in respect to fishery harbour construction. For many years past the money available for this construction had been most inadequate, and in years when there had been an overflowing Exchequer no additional grant had been made for this very useful purpose. There was a very strong claim for increased expenditure, particularly in view of the money taken from the fishing industry in the years between 1858 and 1881. Grants for the Public Works Loan Commission were practically only available for large works or for the extension of existing works, because the terms exacted were prohibitive to small fishing communities. Even the Provisional Order obtained by the North-east Aberdeenshire fishermen had to be abandoned because of the terms exacted, although it was the largest and most important community on that coast. The only other sources available for harbour construction were the £3,000 provided for in the Vote under discussion, and a further sum under a Vote in Class 7, which was limited to the Highlands and Islands. This latter sum, moreover, was not only insufficient in amount, but was so distributed that it went to those parts of the country which least required it, and where the fisheries were of least value. Under the Act of 1891 about £36,000 had been expended in four years on the construction of piers and harbours in the Highland counties. But there the value of the fishing industry was much smaller than on the other coast of Scotland. The Fishery Board had power to devote this grant of £3,000 to harbour construction, but there were statutory restrictions to the grant which made the employment of it very difficult. One condition was that the locality should contribute at least a quarter of the expense. In East Aberdeenshire only one harbour had been constructed by the Fishery Board of recent years, and in two other cases which had arisen in the past five years—one that of a considerable harbour and the other that of a small harbour—the localities were quite unable to raise the amount required. The case for greater expenditure was very strong.

Mr. JAMES BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.) said that the presence of foreign trawlers in the Moray Firth, from which British trawlers had been excluded, was naturally calculated to have a disturbing effect on the latter; and it was desirable to mitigate the irritation as far as possible. The Secretary for Scotland had endeavoured to prevent the foreign trawlers from selling in Scotch ports the fish caught in the Moray Firth; but there was no such prohibition in respect to English ports, to which the foreign trawlers accordingly took the fish. Was there any prospect of steps being taken to prevent this? He was told that the foreign trawlers sometimes, after fishing in the Moray Firth, went out to the North Sea, took a few more fish there and then sold the entire catch in Scotch ports, declaring that the catch had been made in the North Sea. If such statements were accepted, it was an encouragement to the foreign trawlers to persist in their present course. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would see that those whose business it was to stop the sale of fish caught in Moray Firth required some further evidence than the statement of the master of the foreign trawler, that he had taken his fish in the North Sea and would oblige him to disprove the suspicions of his having caught them in the Moray Firth. This was a matter of some importance, because it had to do with the maintenance of law and order. It would be much more easy to induce their own trawlers to acquiesce for the time being in the prohibition if they did not see foreign trawlers going into the Firth. If they did see them going in, they might be tempted to go in also, and a variety of consequences, which they would all regret, would be likely to ensue. He trusted the Fishery Board and the Scottish Office would take all possible steps to minimise the evils arising from the present state of matters.

The LORD ADVOCATE, in replying upon the points raised, said, in answer to the hon. Member for Ross-shire, that the extension of the telegraphs to various remote places was done in the interests of the fishing population themselves. That was a policy which was right at the time, and there seemed to be no reason to go back upon the undertakings that were then given as to the payment of the sums which were guaranteed to the Treasury. The hon. Member was quite right in the assumption he made that the result of the proposals and promises made by his right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer was that practically these sums would be halved in the future, because the Department would bear half the guarantee. As a matter of fact, not nearly £1,500 had been used for some time, and, accordingly, next year, the whole of the £1,500 would not be required upon this head. This was not a case in which the Imperial

Treasury got the money. The money that was not actually expended upon the telegraphs guarantee went into the general pocket of the Fishery Board, and was by them expended on the improvement of their piers and harbours, and upon their general expenditure. Therefore, he thought the strictures of the hon. Member upon the Fishery Board as to their being incompetent went rather beyond the necessities of the case. With regard to the question as to the general policy of the Fishery Board in respect of trawling, he certainly was surprised at the vehemence of the denunciations of the hon. Member for Ross-shire and the hon. Member for Wick Burghs, who spoke as if the Government had done nothing. The hon. Member for Wick Burghs said they had made the law, but had done nothing to see that it was kept. He surely forgot that in these very Estimates there was an additional sum of £11,000 for the express purpose of improving the sea police with regard to trawling. This sum was to be expended in the purchase of two new boats, which would certainly put the sea police in a much more efficient state than they had hitherto been. He could not think that the hon. Member was successful in showing that there was any grievance in the fact that they had not discussed upon the floor of that House the exact terms of the tendered Estimates. The hon. Member did not find any details because there were no details to give. Tenders had been received, and, aided by expert evidence in what was obviously an expert question, the Department would do their best to secure a vessel which should be so calculated by construction and speed and otherwise as to do the best to protect the fishing industry by showing that the prohibition against trawling within the prohibited limits was respected. Undoubtedly there would always be difficulties, but he thought a perusal of the Report showed that the Fishery Board had been anything but supine in this matter. That Report showed that 23 prosecutions were undertaken last year, and convictions were obtained in 20 cases, the remaining three being not proven. That, he should say, was a very high average of convictions, and was a guarantee that the work was being well done. The fines amounted in the total to £950, or an average fine of £47 10s. The hon. Member suggested that the Board should make more stringent bye-laws, but the Board could not make more stringent bye-laws, because in their bye-laws they authorised the imposition of the maximum fines allowed by Act of Parliament. The only effect of making more stringent bye-laws would be that they would be promptly quashed by a Court of Law. The actual fines imposed represented a fairly high average, and showed, he thought, the wisdom of Parliament, when three years ago it altered the maximum fine from £5 to £10. The hon. Member for Banffshire raised a very much more general question as to the provision which was made for harbours in Scotland generally. As the hon. Member knew quite well, the history of the herring brand fee was that since 1881 practically the whole of the money which was taken under the branding regulation was handed over for the improvement of piers and harbours, except only so much as was retained for the cost of the administration of the brand. He could not say that he exactly followed the hon. Member when he spoke of a sum of £800,000 as the produce of what he called Scotch Customs and Excise. He thought it would be against the whole theory of the fiscal arrangements of the United Kingdom to contend that, since the fiscal union, there had been anything in the nature of Scotch Customs and Excise.

Sir W. WEDDERBURN asked to be allowed to explain the figure. In 1804, £11,000 was received by the Scottish fishing industry from national resources. After 1804, £3,000 was given, so that there was a difference of £8,000 which had gone into the Imperial Treasury in some form or another since 1804. The further sum was made up in this way. The herring brand fees, £5,000 a year, were taken from the herring brand, and putting these together the total amount of £800,000 was arrived at. In some way or another that amount had gone to the benefit of the Imperial Exchequer, and had been lost to the Scottish fishing industry.

The LORD ADVOCATE said it was a very startling way of expressing it, to say that the sum of £800,000 had gone into the Imperial Treasury from the fishing industry if, as he now gathered, what the hon. Member meant was that the Imperial grant which in 1804 was £11,000, was in 1808 reduced to £4,000 a year, and that he was entitled to take the balance and, multiplying it by the years which had passed since then, represent that as money gone from the fishing industry to the Imperial Treasury. He thought the statement of the case was quite enough, without any further comment. The hon. Member must have thought his argument was trenching upon a question of a great deal wider significance, and he laid a little net for him, which he thought had been spread too much in the sight of the bird, by asking him his opinion as to whether this sum would or would not be a proper subject to bring before the Commission on the financial relations of the three Kingdoms. That was not a question of law. It was a question for the Committee itself, and he should not be asked to give an opinion even if his opinion were of any value. The hon. Member for Banffshire had very frankly avowed that he had no fault to find with the administration of the Fishery Board so far as they were spending money which was at their disposal, and his speech really amounted to an appeal to the Government to give the Board more money in order that there could be further expenditure upon piers and harbours. That was a very wide question, and one upon which he, who had merely to answer for an administrative Department, could not say much. The hon. Member knew, of course, that the fishing industry existed in all parts of the kingdom, and that in the matter there was nothing to differentiate Scotland from England. The Government recognised the great national importance of the fishing industry, and they were very anxious that everything that could in fairness be done by Parliament to improve that industry should be done; but it must be a subject for serious consideration whether they could possibly ask for a grant for Scotland alone. He had no doubt, however, that the hon. Member's remarks upon the subject would be considered in the proper quarter. He did not think his right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer would ever concede the proposition of the hon. Member that because in 1881 the Government initiated a more liberal policy towards the fishing industry, and said that anything got from the herring brand fees should, after paying for the cost of administration, be given to public works which directly affected that industry, they should now make good all the sums of money which the fishing industry would have got if the policy started in 1881 had been initiated prior to that year. If the right hon. Gentleman did make such a concession, similar claims must inevitably be made in every direction. He was not in a position to give any definite promise that any attempt would be made to legislate in respect to the point raised by the hon. and learned Member for Dumfries; but he could undertake that during the coming Recess the Secretary for Scotland would consider very carefully the Report of the Solway Commission, and be very glad to put every facility in the way of a satisfactory settlement being arrived at. ["Hear, hear!"] The right hon. Gentleman the Member for Aberdeen had put a question in regard to the trawling policy. The policy of the Secretary for Scotland had been to carry out what he conceived to be the spirit of the Act, and accordingly to take advantage of such provisions as existed to prevent fish caught within the prohibited area being landed in Scotch ports. There was no section in any statute which enabled similar action to be taken as regarded English ports. The English ports were beyond the administrative action of the Secretary for Scotland, and therefore he could not say whether anything would be done in the matter as far as English ports were concerned. No authentic case had been brought to the knowledge of the Fishery Board of fish caught within the prohibited area being brought into Scotch ports under the pretext that it had been caught in the North Sea, and he was afraid that it would not be in their power to so alter the law as to put the onus of proof on the trawler owner.

Mr. R. B. HALDANE (Haddingtonshire) said that before the discussion closed, there was a question he would like to put to the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The Lord Advocate had answered for the Fishery Board, and had given a very satisfactory answer. The Fishery Board was doing its work with zeal, and, according to its means, very efficiently, but it was pretty clear to those who had to do with fishing matters in Scotland that the Board was very much hampered, particularly in the matter of improvement of harbours, by want of money. The policy of the Government had always been to assist those who assisted themselves, but it was a matter of common knowledge that just now there were a number of cases which came within the principles which the Government had themselves very rightly laid down, but which the Fishery Board could not deal with because it had not the requisite money. It was not a large sum that was wanted, and he asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he personally would look into the relations between the work of the Scottish Fishery Board in the matter of the improvement of harbours and the means at its disposal? If the right hon. Gentleman would do that, it would be very much to the public advantage. He did not mean to say that the matter had escaped the Chancellor of the Exchequer's attention, but he did not think the right hon. Gentleman realised the extent to which the Board was hampered in its work for want of money.

Sir MARK STEWART (Kirkcudbright) pointed out that the grant in aid referred to was found to be inaccessible in certain cases.

*The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER (Sir Michael Hicks Beach, Bristol, W.) said he had listened carefully to the hon. Member, and gathered that what he wanted on behalf of those whom he, with others, represented in that House was, that additional grants should be made to the Fishery Board in order to aid the construction of a larger number of harbours than the present funds permitted. The hon. Member was no doubt well aware that Scotland was already much more favourably dealt with in this respect than England. Scotland in fact had not great cause of complaint. He had seen something of expenditure on small harbours in Ireland, and he must say that a great deal of the money had been absolutely wasted in Ireland. He had no desire to see the same course pursued in any other part of the United Kingdom. The hon. Member, however, made a claim of another kind on behalf of the poorer districts of Scotland; but he might remind him of the Bill brought in the other day by the Lord Advocate.

*Mr. WEIR complained that time had been lost, and that there was a muddle somewhere. Here they were near the 1st July and no contract had been signed. There could be no excuse for such delay.

Mr. MUNRO FERGUSON (Leith Burghs) said the right hon. Gentleman did not seem to understand the importance of this industry to Scotland, and he appeared to forget that the other day some hundreds of thousands of pounds were found for England and not for Scotland. He therefore hoped that the question would be considered by the Government, bearing in mind that this was a national industry in Scotland. The matter was being left in a somewhat unsatisfactory condition. There were two points to which he desired to call attention. The one was the question of the negotiations with Foreign Powers with regard to the extension of the area of prohibited waters in the North Sea. He thought the time had come when they ought to know the result, if any, of these negotiations, and whether, in the event of the negotiations being unsuccessful, the Government would be prepared to take any other steps in the matter. That was done under the influence of the English Solicitor General some years ago in the case of the Moray Firth. Then there was the question of the landing of catches in Scottish waters by foreign trawlers at English ports. It was idle for the Government to make regulations with regard to Scottish waters if a foreign trawler had only to slip across the mouth of the Tweed and land his catches in England. He hoped the matter would be considered by the Scotch Office. Though they had not the power to deal with the matter themselves, they could bring strong influence to bear on the English departments, and he hoped that before another year passed, the House might have some definite declaration by the Government as to their policy in these matters.

Vote agreed to.

3. £3,422, to complete the sum for Lunacy Commission, Scotland.—Agreed to.

4. £3,129, to complete the sum for Registrar General's Office, Scotland.—Agreed to.

5. Motion made, and Question proposed,

"That a sum, not exceeding £7,951, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1898, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Local Government Board for Scotland, and for Expenses under the Public Health Acts, Infectious Diseases Notification Act, Vaccination Act, Local Government (Scotland) Act 1889, Burgh Police (Scotland) Act, and Local Government (Scotland) Act 1894."

Mr. DALY said that for some time past he had been putting questions to the Lord Advocate with regard to the deportation of paupers from Scotland to Ireland, and he was sorry to say that although the Secretary for Ireland and the President of the Local Government Board were agreeable to hold a conference, and try to settle this long-disputed question, the right hon. Gentleman had not met them. Last year he moved for a Return of the number of one class of paupers who had been sent from Scotland to Ireland, and from that Return it appeared that 31 paupers had been so deported in the course of one month. If a man who was born in Ireland became chargeable to the parish in Scotland, he could be sent back to Ireland. He submitted that the Irish Members had a great grievance on this point. An Irishman in his young days went to Scotland, he spent all the money he had there, and did his best to improve Scotland with his labour; yet if he became a pauper he was at once sent back to Ireland. If Irish Poor Law Guardians could send Scotchmen, or Englishmen, or Welshmen back to their respective countries if they became paupers, the grievance would not be quite so great; but if an Englishman, a Scotchman, or a Welshman entered a workhouse in Ireland, he could remain there as long as he liked. There was a case of a man who had lived for 50 years in Scotland, who had a wife and family residing there. The moment this man became a pauper, he was sent back to Ireland and was separated from his wife and children. This was a very great grievance that Irish Members had to complain of, and he hoped that this would be the last time the complaint would have to be made. Cases of very great hardship frequently occurred. An Irishman lived in Aberdeen 20 years. He had to enter a lunatic asylum, and was at once sent back to Dublin. Such a case as that constituted a great grievance, and as far as he was concerned, in season and out of season, he would try to raise this question; and if the Lord Advocate did not see his way to put an end to this scandal, it would be the duty of Irish Members to oppose Scotch business in every way they could, of course, in accordance with the rules of the House. ["Hear, hear!" *and laughter.*] That was a point upon which he was always anxious, namely, to act in strict conformity to the Rules of the House. To send men back to a country to whose resources they had not contributed one penny was unjust to the ratepayers, and he trusted that in a very short time this scandalous state of things would be a thing of the past.

*Mr. WEIR complained of the conduct of the affairs of the Scotch Local Government Board, the officers of which had been taken over from the old Board of Supervision. He also urged that a reasonable time might elapse between the resignation of a Parish Councillor and his appointment to an inspectorship under the Board. A case had occurred in Ross-shire in which a retiring Parish Councillor had been appointed an Inspector with unseemly haste.

Mr. P. J. POWER (Waterford, E.) said that 13 years ago he raised the question which his hon. Friend (Mr. Daly) had raised that evening. On that occasion and on several subsequent occasions the Scotch Office had acknowledged the grievance of the Irish people. The same acknowledgment had come from the English Local Government Board. Nothing, however, had been done to remedy the grievance. The question was again raised on the Address in reply to the speech from the Throne, and the Chief Secretary for Ireland promised to communicate with the Scotch authorities on the subject, but nothing had as yet been done. Year after year large numbers of Irishmen were compelled to leave home in order to earn a livelihood. They spent the best years of their lives in aiding to enrich this country, and when they were incapable of working any more they were packed off to Ireland as paupers. In Waterford and many other unions there were often found English and Scotch people who were a burden on the rates. The Irish people were not able to send them back to the countries from which they had come.

Mr. Serjeant HEMPHILL (Tyrone, N.) said that this was a grievance which the Irish felt very much. It had no political character, but caused a sense of injustice and tended to increase the Irish people's belief that the English House of Commons was not disposed to do complete justice to their country. The subject had been brought to the notice of the House over and over again, and successive Chief Secretaries had expressed a willingness to remedy what they admitted to be a gross wrong. Nothing, however, had been done. From Ireland English or Scotch paupers could not be deported. It was not an answer to say that there were no English or Scotch paupers in Ireland, because it was very doubtful whether that was true, and, even if it were, the fact that there was no reciprocal power of deportation remained. No matter how short might have been the period of an Englishman or Scotchman's residence in Ireland, he could not be sent back to his own country if unfortunately he became a pauper. He must remain and be supported at the expense of Irish ratepayers. If, on the other hand, an Irishman remained in England or Scotland for any length of time he could be sent back to Ireland if he had not acquired a settlement under the English or Soctch laws. There was not the same law of settlement in Ireland. This deportation was a great interference with the liberty of the subject, for an unfortunate man could be sent away against his wishes to the nearest port, and thence to the remotest part of Ireland. What could be more unjust? When such a state of things was permitted to continue it was hardly strange that the people of Ireland should believe that they did not get equal justice.

Sir MARK STEWART observed that the Poor Law in Scotland differed from the law of England as well as from that of Ireland. He hoped that the Government would not give way upon this point. He had been engaged in parochial work for 30 years in Scotland, and so knew a good deal about this subject. The Irishmen who came to Scotland to work did not, as a rule, remain very long in one place, and the great majority of them never acquired a settlement. Those who did were provided for out of the rates, and were treated like Scotch paupers. The number deported was small, and there was no real hardship. Speaking as a practical man, he said that very little hardship existed, though he suggested that there might be room for reform in reducing the period of settlement to three years instead of five. This reform would in his judgment meet the whole necessities of the case.

Sir CHARLES CAMERON (Glasgow, Bridgeton) thought that, at all events, a claim had been established for an inquiry as to whether some practical means could be found to remedy an anomaly and a grievance. The law of settlement was extremely harsh in a great number of cases, and it was, moreover, extremely expensive. In his judgment a thorough reform of the Scottish law of settlement was most urgently called for. The number of paupers deported could not be very great. It was so small that it would not constitute a very heavy charge on some of the funds which were devoted to Scotch purposes by the Scotch Department. If, however, that solution were not feasible, the grievance might be diminished by a careful reform of the whole subject of the law of settlement in Scotland. He would not venture to dogmatise as to how the question should be dealt with. The claim was not for the adoption of any particular plan, but that the Scottish authorities should enter into a conference with the authorities in England and Ireland in order to see whether an equitable plan could not be devised. He hoped that the Government would give their earnest attention to the matter.

Mr. J. FORTESCUE FLANNERY (Yorkshire, Shipley) joined in the appeal which had been made to the Government for a reasonable and logical treatment of this Question. He had spent some time in the post of Chairman of a Settlement and Removal Committee of a Board of Guardians, and he was aware of the hardship which often occurred in connection with this subject. The hardship seemed to him not to be clearly represented by the speech of the last hon. Member. The hon. Member spoke of the differences between the two kingdoms; but the essence of this matter was that after all there was no difference between the two kingdoms; it was a difference between different parts of the same kingdom. It was therefore desirable to recognise the duty of equality of treatment between this country and Ireland.

Mr. JASPER TULLY recognised the excellent spirit which characterised the speech of the hon. Member, and he hoped that a Division would be taken on the subject. Ireland had a serious and substantial grievance in this matter. Persons of all classes and all shades of opinion in Ireland were agreed about that. It was a question which had been long agitated, and it would continue to be agitated until they got relief. What was the law in Ireland? If a man was four years out of an electoral division he ceased to be chargeable to that division, whereas over here it was quite the reverse. An Irishman who came here and lived for 20 or 30 years and then passed some boundary line round Edinburgh or Glasgow, was promptly sent back to Ireland. The hon. Member for Kirkcudbright said very few cases of hardship occurred. If they would only give Ireland equal powers to send back Scotch paupers, pensioners with their families who got a miserable 4d. or 6d. a day for fighting Britain's battles, they would soon find the grievance was a very real and substantial one. He congratulated the Scotch Members on their shrewdness in this matter. Whenever there was a Scotch night, unfortunately Members from the other nationalities did not attend, because the Scotch Members wrapped up their legal terms in a jargon which was not understood south of the Tweed, and so were enabled to pass small Acts to carry out the very things of which Ireland complained. He had always thought it was a mistake that when the Scotch people were getting their Parish Councils Bill, Irish Members did not fight that Bill, and assist in wrecking it unless a clause was inserted in it taking away from the Parochial Boards and Parish Councils this power to deport Irish-born poor to Ireland. England and Scotland by their laws had made Irish people paupers. They had killed Measures which would enable them to find employment in their own country, as for example the Industries Bill, which was thrown out the other day by the House of Lords. If Irish people in this large island were to be deported because they were paupers and poor, Ireland at least should have the same right to send back to England and Scotland the people who came over to Ireland.

The LORD ADVOCATE said they could all concur in the general sentiment expressed by the hon. Member for Shipley Division as to the desirability of equal treatment between different parts of the Kingdom, but the practical application of those general sentiments was not so easy as seemed to be supposed. He would be very happy to accept as a solution of the question that Ireland should have the right to deport Scottish and English paupers. If that solution would satisfy Irish Members he could offer it at once. But that solution would not be accepted. Scotland had no objection to confer with the offices in England and Ireland on the question, but she did object to hand over to the arbitration of a Departmental Committee, in which Scotland would be in a minority, the right to upset the whole of her Poor-law system. ["Hear, hear!"] It was all very well to say the law of settlement acted harshly. Of course it did in certain cases, but would the hon. Member for Bridgeton give up the law of settlement altogether, or would he merely reduce the period? As a matter of fact, the Scottish Office had already made an offer to the Irish Office to reduce the period of settlement from five years to three years, and give a guarantee by way of appeal, so that there should be no harsh carrying out of the right to deport. He agreed with the statement that, on the whole, this law had not been harshly worked, but instead of the absolute right to deport, they were willing to give some sort of appeal to the Local Government Board, so as to insure that in individual cases it should not be carried out if it inflicted great hardship. That, he thought, was as much as they were entitled to do in the interest of the people of Scotland. ["Hear, hear!"] With reference to the question as to a certain Parish Council in Ross-shire, where a member resigned in order to be made Inspector of Poor, that was a matter with which the Scottish Office could not interfere without legislation.

Mr. THOMAS SHAW (Hawick Burghs) thought the concessions offered by the Lord Advocate amounted to an admission that the law at present was indefensible. The hon. Member for Kirkcudbrightshire was the only independent Scotch Member who had stood up to defend the law of Scotland as it was at present. The hon. Member had ill selected his instance of a good Scotch law, and in his humble judgment that law was opposed to the instincts of ordinary humanity. The hon. Baronet confessed that he had had, as others had had for years, the advantage of Irish labour, and in all probability with great pecuniary advantage.

Sir MARK STEWART: No.

Mr. T. SHAW said, at all events, season after season, year after year, came the Irish labourer, and his labour was gladly availed of, and then, at the end of his labouring days, when he found himself no longer able to work, he was flung back to Ireland because it happened to be the land of his birth.

Sir MARK STEWART: This is not the class of men who are deported.

Mr. T. SHAW hoped the hon. Gentleman would permit him to give an illustration.

Sir MARK STEWART: Not wrongly.

Mr. T. SHAW said the Committee would be aware that the law in Scotland was that a settlement could not be acquired unless there had been continued residence in one parish for five years. The Committee would also be aware, from inquiries to which he would advert in a moment, inquiries to which the hon. Baronet himself was a party many years ago, this condition of the law led to great hardships of this kind. A man might live and labour in one parish for three or four years, but it was incidental to such labour that frequently his residence had to be changed, and he had to find work in another parish for a similar period, and so on in various parishes he might spend the whole term of his working life—he might labour in the country for a generation. This was the case to which he referred as one in which the Local Government Board was confronted with this position—that there was no residential settlement acquired, because the man had not had a continuous residence in a parish for five years, though in Scotland as a whole he might have lived for 35 years. In such a case as that he asked the Committee to say—was it a humane law which enabled Scotland to deport this man under these circumstances, with his wife and family, to take him away from this country where he had laboured so long—to deport him and his family to Ireland because of the fact that he, though a labouring man in Scotland for so long, was born on the other side of the Channel? On these grounds it was well established that the law of which he complained was a brutal and inhuman law. There was another ground upon which the law stood condemned, not looking at it in its social aspect, but in regard to the relations between the countries. There was no reciprocity in this matter. Reciprocity was not wanted, for to make the law reciprocal would be to double the cruelty complained of. The system was out of accord with the spirit of the time in which we lived. This was not the first time, and it would not be the last, that the House had had and would have attention formally drawn to this subject. In 1879 a very powerful Committee sat to consider the whole question. The hon. Baronet opposite was a member of that Committee, which reported in terms somewhat different from the speech he had just delivered, though he hoped he did not differ from the spirit of the recommendations. That Committee said,—

> "Your Committee hold that the question of removal should be regarded not merely in the supposed interest of the ratepayers, but with sympathy and care for the convenience and material advantage of the poor."

This wound up by recommending to the House of Commons legislation in this sense, and reducing the five years residential settlement to one year. If the Lord Advocate had been able to say now that something of this humane character should be imported into the law of Scotland—if he had given more than the vague promise he had given—it might be accepted, but on the ground that the law was perfectly indefensible, and in its operation was harsh and unjust, he joined with pleasure with his Irish Friends in voting for the reduction.

Mr. JOHN DILLON (Mayo, E.) thought the statement of the Lord Advocate extremely unsatisfactory, and that, in fact, it more than justified everything said by the hon. Member for Monaghan with reference to the action of the Scotch Office. He had listened with considerable interest to the eminently characteristic speech of the hon. Member for Kirkcudbrightshire. The hon. Baronet treated this as a matter of small importance, and seemed to think it was not worth while to make it a grievance. If it was the mere bagatelle the hon. Member supposed it to be, why not settle it at once?

Sir MARK STEWART said the hon. Member was not quite representing what he said.

Mr. DILLON said the hon. Baronet went on to say that which was inconsistent with his proposition, and as a reason for opposing any alteration of the Law of Settlement in Scotland said there was on the part of the people of Scotland very great objection to anything that would tend to increase the rates. Yes; they objected to an increase of the Scotch rates, but not to an increase of the Irish rates. ["Hear, hear!"] The hon. Member and his Friends would prefer that the increase should fall upon Ireland, the poorer country with the heavier rates. Beyond controversy this was a substantial grievance. For upwards of 30 years the injustice had been admitted, and on one ground or another redress had been denied. On what might be called the sentimental side of the question, the injustice was admitted, but met with an absolute refusal of remedy, though if it was a small matter it might readily be dealt with in a manner that would give rise to better feeling on the part of the Irish people. What was the explanation of this question as affecting the Irish labourer? Under the present state of the Scotch law, though he may have given the best years of his life, or the greater part of each year, to labour in Scotland, the Irish labourer was, when power to work failed him, deported back to Ireland. No doubt the Lord Advocate was right when he said reciprocity would not be accepted as a fair settlement of the grievance. ["Why?"] It was not really within practical politics, for everybody knew there was not the slightest possibility of introducing the law of Scotland into Ireland, and it could not be accepted, because, owing to circumstances upon which he was not now going to enter—but they had frequently been debated in the House—the conditions of life in Ireland were much lower than in England or Scotland, and the inevitable result by the working of a well-known and invariable commercial law, was that from the country where the conditions of social and commercial life were lower, a supply of labour was sent to the neighbouring more prosperous country where the social condition of the people was higher. Under the operation of this law, Ireland sent over to England and Scotland a large supply of labour, and this labour was sought for by the capitalists of the richer country—by farmers, by manufacturers, and others. It was not from motives of philanthropy that the English farmer or manufacturer employed Irish labour. It was because they got good value for their money. If any man had a right to complain of the influx of Irish labour, they were not the local ratepayers, but the labouring classes, who thought that the introduction of Irish labour tended to depression of wages, but the manufacturers, the miners, the contractors, the farmers who employed Irish labour did so because it put money in their pockets, because they got good value for their money. It was a monstrous thing, a cruel injustice, that this law should be as it was, when it was remembered how this country had risen to its present prosperous condition by the labour of its people, in which labour Irishmen had so large a share. From lack of employment in Ireland, and this he attributed, justly or unjustly, to the Government under which they lived, Irishmen were driven to place their labour at the disposal of English and Scotch employers, and what Irish Members demanded and were entitled to demand, was that Irishmen who worked in England and Scotland assisting to build up the wealth of the country in which they worked should not be branded as foreigners in the country where they had worked, and that they should be entitled to the same protection of the law in their old age as the men with whom they had worked at the same bench or on the same farm. No matter what the law might be in England or Scotland that law should be extended to Irishmen living and working in those countries, and that was a reasonable demand. It was preposterous for the Lord Advocate to attempt to maintain that it was impossible to apply any remedy to this grievance without completely altering the whole law of settlement as regards Scotland. They did not quarrel with the right of the Scottish people to settle their own Poor Law, but some provision should be made for those who came into Scotland from other countries. It would be perfectly possible, if the question was to be settled and if the Scotch Office insisted that they would not alter the Poor Law of Scotland, to make some special provision for the case of men who came from Ireland or elsewhere and had lived in Scotland for a certain number of years and had not acquired a settlement under Scotch law, that these men should become chargeable on the Scotch, not on the Irish rates. He thought they had made out a grievance, and that they were entitled to demand that a remedy should be applied to it. Let him say one word as to the extent and character of the grievance. It had been said in the course of the Debate that the grievance was an extremely trifling one. If it was really so small, was it worth while for the Scotch Office to obstruct the application of a remedy that would remove the bitter feeling caused by it? But he denied that the grievance was small. The rates in Ireland were extremely high, and Ireland was a poor country. They had heard from the hon. Member for South Monaghan, who was himself Chairman or Vice Chairman of a Board of Guardians, that in that one Union within a year £80 was charged upon the ratepayers for the importation of paupers from Scotland. He denied, therefore, that it was such an infinitesimal grievance. It was a serious grievance. It amounted to a scandal that a great British community such as that of Glasgow, Edinburgh, or Dundee should shift from its shoulders a burden of £80 a year and put it upon a poor overtaxed rural community like that of South Monaghan. A return obtained by the hon. Member for South Monaghan showed that in one month—September, 1892—no less than 31 paupers were deported to Ireland from Glasgow, Edinburgh, Paisley, Aberdeen, and other Scotch towns. It might be a mere bagatelle to a city like Glasgow to support these paupers, but it was no bagatelle for poor rural districts in Ireland where the rates were already so high that it was almost impossible for the people to bear them. There was another point in connection with this matter which had been alluded to by the hon. Member. Sometimes whole families were deported, sometimes they were separated; and he could imagine nothing more barbarous than to take an old man or woman who had been living for years in Scotland, and who might have children settled there, and although those children might be able to support their own families, yet because they could not support their parents also, the old people were sent away to Ireland immediately they came upon the rates.

Sir MARK STEWART said that by the law of Scotland the dependants of paupers were necessarily compelled to support their families.

Mr. DILLON said they could not compel people to support their parents if they were unable to do so. He had been informed of cases in which great cruelty had been inflicted by sending old persons off to some remote parish in Ireland where they were born 50 or 60 years ago, where they now had no friends or relatives left, tearing them away from all the associations they had formed. Therefore, in addition to the ratepayers' grievance, of which they so justly complained, there was in many instances a great deal of inhumanity in the treatment of these paupers. He thought they were entitled to demand some more satisfying answer than they had received from the Lord Advocate, and in order, if possible, to elicit a more satisfying answer he begged to move that the Vote be reduced by £1,000.

Mr. DALY shared his hon. Friend's regret that the reply of the Lord Advocate had not been more satisfactory. It was also very contradictory. He meant to infer that their case was a very trivial one. But if it was so trivial, why was not the right hon. Gentleman prepared to infer that their case was a very trivial the Local Government Boards? For the very reason that he was afraid he should be outvoted by the Local Government Boards of England and Ireland. A weaker case than the right hon. Gentleman had made out could scarcely be conceived. He would read a letter he had received from an official of the Carrickmacross Union,—

> "Workhouse, Carrickmacross,
> "7th February, 1896.
>
> "Dear Sir,—On the other side you will see names and particulars of imported paupers who are in the workhouse.—Your obedient servant,
> "Patrick Jones,
> "Master of Workhouse.
> "James Daly, Esq., M.P."
>
> "Peter McEneamy, in house from last year, after spending 50 years in Scotland.
> "Patrick Brady, in house for last four years, after spending 40 years in England and Scotland."
> "There are two or three other cases. Also a removable warrant from Scotland of case last week that did not arrive yet. A man named Patrick Goff was admitted to house last evening in bad health, after spending the last 25 years in England."

That was what had been called a trivial case. It was no small matter for a little Union of only £50,000 rateable value to have a charge of £80 per annum put upon the ratepayers on account of cases like these. ["Hear, hear!"] Here was the declaration made by Peter McEneamy,—

> "I, Peter McEneamy, of about 65 years, make solemn declaration as follows: I went to Scotland when I was 14 years of age, and spent about 50 years there. I have a wife and family in Glasgow, and was separated from my wife and family against my will, and sent back here. I told the authorities in Glasgow if I was sent back to Ireland I would jump overboard rather than go back a pauper. I have a burial place in Pathhead Cemetery which I purchased, and I desire to get back there to bury with my family. I have made frequent applications to the Guardians here to send me back to my wife and family.—Peter McEneamy. Deported March, 1895."

And here was another case,—

> "I, Patrick Brady, make solemn declaration, and say I spent over 30 years in England and Scotland. I got unwell in Glasgow Workhouse, and was told by the official there I would either have to leave the workhouse or go back to Ireland. I had to consent to come back here against my will, as I was totally unfit to work.—Signed, Patrick Brady."

He gave his word to the Committee that he had interviewed these men, and they told him that they were coerced by the authorities in the workhouse at Glasgow to consent to being sent back. When he put questions to the Lord Advocate on the subject, he got over it by the thin excuse that the men "consented" to go back to Ireland. They were coerced. They had their choice—either to go out of the workhouse and starve in the streets or go back to whatever district of Ireland they belonged to. And in many instances the Irish Boards of Guardians had even to pay the cost of their carriage. He was not speaking on a subject he did not understand, and if he felt he spoke warmly the case deserved it. The Lord Advocate had said that it was a trivial matter—

The LORD ADVOCATE: I beg the hon. Member's pardon, but I certainly used no such expression.

Mr. DALY said he was sorry to attribute to the right hon. Gentleman anything he did not say. The expression had been made use in the course of the Debate, but if the right hon. Gentleman did not make the statement of course he apologised. He was glad to see the First Lord of the Treasury in his place, and hoped he would seriously consider this matter, which some of his supporters thought so trivial, and that he would think it worth while to remedy the grievance of which they complained. With regard to the law of settlement, if the Government would say that a man who left Ireland for two or three years only should be sent back if he became chargeable during that time, he (the speaker) was quite willing to meet the Lord Advocate on that point. What they said was this—that where a man spent 50, 40, 20, or 10 years in England or Scotland, working for the benefit of those countries, it was a shame to send him back to Ireland to be a charge on rates to which he had contributed nothing. He should be supported by the rates of the country in which he had worked and in which he had lost his health. It was quite time that the matter was settled, and he hoped this would be the last occasion on which it might be necessary to bring the grievance before the House.

Mr. CAMERON CORBETT (Glasgow, Tradeston) said that he thought it would be quite practicable to draw a definite line providing that deportation would not be permitted where a man had been in Scotland or England for a period, say, exceeding ten years.

The thing which seemed to him most important of all was that whatever regulation was laid down it should be made strictly mutual, and that exactly the same power should be given of deporting Scotchmen and Englishmen from Ireland as was given for deporting Irishmen from Scotland. [" Hear, hear ! "]

Mr. JAMES JORDAN (Fermanagh, S.) thought the statement of the Lord Advocate very unsatisfactory. The discussion that had taken place made it quite evident that the Irish had a great grievance in this matter of the deportation of paupers. Ireland demanded that that grievance should be remedied, and, so far as he understood, the English Local Government Board was quite prepared to remedy that grievance, and Scotland alone stood in the way. He thought there was a peculiar meanness in Scotland standing in the way. Scotland professed to be friendly to Ireland, but in this case the Irish people might well ask to be saved from their friends. The Scotch sucked every spark of life and vitality out of the Irish labourer and then sent him home to be a charge on the rates of his own country. There was nothing of party politics in this matter whatever. He represented a Board of Guardians which was very loyal and constitutional. It was presided over by Lord Belmore, and not very long since this very question of pauper deportation came up for consideration. On that occasion Lord Belmore expressed a very strong opinion on the subject, and the Board passed a resolution against the deportation of paupers. As a member of that Board of Guardians, expressing their views, and having as a ratepayer to pay rates for the support of paupers who were brought from Scotland, he protested in the strongest possible manner against the action of the Lord Advocate and the Scotch Office, and particularly against the action of certain Scottish Members in that House. The Irish representatives had made out a strong case, and had demonstrated that in this matter Ireland was now suffering and had suffered for years from a crying injustice.

Mr. JOHN COLVILLE (Lanark, N.E.), speaking as one who had some little knowledge of the working of the law of settlement in Scotland, considered that the Irish Members had some substantial ground for grievance in this matter. There could be no doubt that in the case of some, at least, of the paupers who had been deported, the employers of labour in England and Scotland had had the full advantage of their labour for the best part of their lives, and it did seem very hard that the law should then send the poor people back to their native land without any regard to the benefit that must have accrued to England and Scotland by their labour during the best years of their lives. The hon. Member who had last spoken, however, did not quite seem to realise the difficulty that stood in the way of the Government and of the Lord Advocate in dealing with this question, in respect to the law of settlement that prevailed in Scotland and did not in Ireland. He hoped the Government would give some assurance that an earnest attempt would be made to remedy this undoubted grievance, and to give to that part of the United Kingdom which had cause of complaint perfectly equitable treatment in this respect.

Question put, "That a sum, not exceeding £6,951, be granted for the said Service."

The Committee divided: Ayes, 49; Noes, 97.—(Division List, No. 246.)

Original Question put, and agreed to.

Class IV.

6. Motion made and Question proposed,—

> "That a sum, not exceeding £604,933, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1898, for Public Education in Scotland."

*Sir JOHN LENG desired to state the grievances of the Sub-inspectors of Schools in Scotland with regard to the denial of promotion to the higher grades of the Inspectorate. A considerable correspondence had taken place between them and the Scotch Education Department. His hon. Friend the Member for West Aberdeenshire asked that that correspondence should be published. As that request was refused, it was necessary to bring the subject before the House. The Sub-inspectors, who now included those formerly designated assistant inspectors, felt that great injustice had been done to them from time to time in placing over their heads as inspectors and chief inspectors men (1) absolutely without experience in teaching, and (2) in several instances of inferior scholarships to that which might be found among the Sub-inspectors. The Educational Institute and the teaching profession in Scotland generally sympathised with the feeling of the Sub-inspectors in this matter. The theory of the Scotch Education Department was that the Department should have a free hand to be able to select the best men—the men of the highest qualifications, for the office of Inspectors. If the practice of the Department corresponded with that theory there would be little ground of complaint, as it certainly would not involve exclusion from the area of selection of thoroughly competent men of great experience, both in teaching and inspection, among the Sub-inspectors. He was not there to contend that all the Sub-inspectors were qualified for promotion as Inspectors. His contention was that in their number are men quite equal in all respects to the best of their official superiors, and much better than some of them, especially to one who was appointed so recently as August 1896, and whose appointment had raised the whole question. He did not wish to bring the name of the gentleman before the Committee, but the facts were these. Although appointed one of H.M. Inspectors of Schools he had no experience of elementary schools and no training as a teacher. His University record showed that he took five years to graduate, which a good student did in three. He took no place in the merit list in mathematics, natural philosophy, logic, or psychology. He was only twenty-third in moral philosophy and forty-first in English literature. He was sixteenth in Greek and fourteenth in Latin. In every one of these subjects he was beaten by Training College students, who were being trained as elementary teachers. What conceivable qualification had this gentleman for the high post to which he was raised over the heads of experienced and scholarly men, who had been Assistant or Sub-inspectors for many years? The only one known in Scotland was that he acted for some time as private tutor in the family of an eminent Lord of Session (Lord Kingsburgh), formerly a Member of this House. All that could be said in palliation of this case was that it was not quite so bad as a memorable one in which a person in Scotland, who had not succeeded in business as a miller, had a friend who was an old college friend of the then Secretary to the Education Department. Application was made for a post under the Department, but none of a subordinate character could be given, because the applicant could not pass the requisite examinations. The Secretary, however, suggested that if the miller would go to college to take honours in Latin he would give him an Inspectorship for Schools, for which no examination was necessary. The young man did this, and was forthwith appointed one of Her Majesty's Inspectors—having never entered the door of an elementary school till he went to inspect such schools in Aberdeenshire. It might be said these are exceptional cases. The truth was, promotion by influence rather than for merit had been the rule. Some very curious facts may be noted. A school known as Milne's Institution, Fochabers, stood at the gate of the Duke of Richmond's residence. Three times in succession the headmaster of that school was appointed right off by the Duke to the post of Her Majesty's Inspector. Was it to be supposed that on three successive occasions, when all other claims had been carefully considered in the public interest, nobody in Scotland was found to be fit for this post but the master of Milne's Institution, Fochabers, who lived at the Lord President's gate? He might refer to other cases, some of them cases of men worthy and estimable in their own way, but not at all qualified for the important duties of school inspectors. He might refer to cases in which the inspectors notoriously had had to rely on their sub-inspectors to do what they could not do themselves. But he was most anxious not to bear hardly upon individuals. It was of the system he complained, and which he wished to see altered, not so much for the sake of the sub-inspectors as of the efficiency and usefulness of the educational system in Scotland. As to scholarship, it was unquestionable that there were more scholarly men in the lower than the higher grades of the Inspectorship.

Three of Her Majesty's Inspectors in Scotland were not graduates; eleven, when appointed, had no teaching experience. Three of the four first-class sub-inspectors were not graduates. Of the second-class sub-inspectors nine were graduates. The extraordinary character of the present system was illustrated by this simple statement:—

> "Before entering the lowest grade, stringent rules have to be satisfied. The candidate must be 25 years of age, must have been trained as a teacher, and have taken a first-class pass in the examination for certificates, and had two favourable reports on class training from an Inspector. Preference is given to Graduates. No such qualification is demanded for a full Inspectorship, and three of the present H.M. Inspectors are not even Graduates; of the three one was a Chief Inspector."

While the sub-inspectors were frequently better qualified for their work, were better scholars, better trained, and more experienced in teaching:—

> "It is impossible to differentiate between the work actually done by the three grades of Inspectors. Sub-Inspectors of the first class were not allowed to sign their own reports. They, however, wrote these reports and decided all matters connected with a school grant without the necessity of the school being visited by their superior. On their recommendation grants were given, reduced, or withheld, and, so far as they knew, their decisions had been approved, not only by the Department, but also by school managers. Moreover, the Evening Continuation School system had hitherto been almost entirely worked by the Sub-Inspectors."

It was not surprising, therefore, that they expressed the feelings of disappointment and humiliation experienced by officers who had given the best years of their lives to a conscientious and efficient discharge of their duties, and who, when a vacancy in the higher grade occurred, found that an applicant, outside the ranks of the Inspectorate, many years his junior, totally wanting in training and experience, and possibly of inferior scholarship, was nevertheless appointed over him to the post for which the sub-inspector was admitted to be qualified and to have distinctly prior claims. These feelings were kept fresh by the fact that for a considerable time such a superior required the constant guidance and advice of the subordinate officials who might be associated with him. The sub-inspectors, while doing a large part of the work of the inspectors, were not only denied the credit but were blamed if they took the credit for it. His feeling was that the sub-inspectors had a strong case. The official sentiments which had been expressed were admirable, but the misfortune was that they were not acted upon. How did the statement that their merits would be fully recognised tally with the appointment in August last of a tenth-rate scholar who graduated with difficulty, and who had no school-teaching experience? How did it tally with the appointment of three teachers in succession from one school that happened to be at the Lord President's gate? How did it tally with the fact that there had been only two promotions in the last 35 years? Surely in that period of time there must have been more than two men among the sub-inspectors qualified for promotion. All that he urged was that the Department would honestly act up to its own declarations. The statement that was made when this Question was formerly before the House was by the late Lord Advocate, who said that he had always been in favour as a rule of promotion within the service. He hoped the present Lord Advocate's view would not be less generous. It was in the interests of the education of the people that the inspection of our schools should be conducted by experienced and thoroughly qualified men. He contended that more encouragement should be given to conspicuous merit within the ranks of the sub-inspectors. The public service obtained its best work from men who had no substantial grievance and who had the stimulus of hope. He trusted, therefore, that in future these men would receive fuller recognition from the Scottish Education Department.

*MR. JOHN WILSON (Falkirk Burghs) said that for many years past grants had been given in support of evening continuation schools in Scotland, and the Education Department had now seen fit to discontinue the grant for such schools to Airdrie School Board. That grant had been continuously given since 1886 till last year. He did not think it was in the power of the Department under the Education Act to withdraw the grant. In answer to a question he had put on the subject, the Lord Advocate had replied that the Department had taken legal advice on the matter, which was to the effect that as there was no restriction as to the age of scholars, the attendance at the evening continuation schools could not be included in reckoning the average attendance. He disputed the justice of the view. The sum which had been withdrawn was about £120. He would appeal to the Lord Advocate to consider carefully this matter, and to endeavour to meet the views of many School Boards in Scotland.

DR. FARQUHARSON (Aberdeenshire, W.) joined with the hon. Member for Dundee in his appeal regarding the case of the Sub-inspectors. He was very sorry that the only means they had of bringing this matter before the House was by threatening a reduction of the salary of the Scotch Educational Secretary. He would himself much rather increase his salary than reduce it, because of the excellent work he did. He entirely threw in his lot with the Member for Dundee in this matter. He had had many opportunities of meeting those gentlemen in different parts of Scotland in conference, and they had all a feeling of soreness and dissatisfaction and disappointment that they had not had the chance of earning promotion to the higher ranks. The system pursued now was an entirely wrong one, and it was extremely disheartening for those gentlemen who had had to bear the heat and burden of the day to be jumped over by younger men from the Universities, who might have a more ornamental qualification, but who had not the first requisite for the work—namely, a familiarity with the work to be done, and with the machinery for carrying it out. He understood that recently the delicacy and difficulty and complication of the work of the Sub-inspectors had very much increased, and he hoped, therefore, that the Government would give some consideration to the case of those officials. [" Hear, hear! "]

On the return of the CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS, after the usual interval,

*SIR W. WEDDERBURN said he wished to add his support to the contention of his hon. Friends the Member for Dundee and the Member for West Aberdeenshire. There was not the least doubt that the sub-inspectors formed the backbone of the inspectorate in Scotland, and every time that an outsider was pitchforked over their heads very grave and serious discouragement was caused to the whole rank and file of inspectors. Therefore he considered that these appointments should be viewed with great jealousy and care, and that they should never be made except in those exceptional circumstances which could be justified on one of two grounds—either first, that there was no sub-inspector thoroughly qualified to receive the promotion; or, secondly, that there were some special circumstances which needed an exceptional man to be placed in the position. They all knew there was a great deal of pressure and influence brought to bear on the authorities who had appointments to make, and therefore he thought the authorities should be grateful for a strong expression of opinion from the Committee that these appointments should be made rarely and with great care, because after all, the duties of the inspectors, whether sub-inspectors or chief inspectors, was very much a matter of experience. The fact that a man had done the work for years created a strong presumption that he was more capable than an outside man, even though his academic qualifications might not be very high. He wished to support the claim that the working bees of the Department should get their promotion. It was quite clear that, if the men did not get the promotion they expected, they would be discouraged, and a good class of men would be discouraged from joining the service and passing through the lower grades. Therefore, the whole body of the officials would be unfavourably affected. A similar grievance had been a good deal brought to notice with regard to the various grades of sub-inspectors. The complaint was that, although the duties were practically the same, a considerable distinction was made, and that the men were not so freely given their promotion according to seniority as they considered themselves entitled to. He trusted these matters would receive the careful consideration of the Department.

*MR. ROBINSON SOUTTAR (Dumfriesshire) said that he desired to say a few words with reference to the £2,000 given for agricultural education in Scotland. The sum was not a very large one, but even that amount was so divided up that it was almost useless. It was divided in the first instance between agricultural education and agricultural research, and £100 given to this scheme and £100 to that, and so on, until the money was practically inoperative for good. The County Councils and such societies as the Highland Society did something in an amateurish way, but it was all done in a very fitful way and it was very largely useless. The fact was this sort of work could not be done in that way at all. There was a certain jealousy between the different countries even in Scotland, and there was a feeling that that which was very suitable for one county was not at all suitable for another county. It was entirely impossible to carry out agricultural research by private effort. The experiments ought to be upon a broad basis and they ought to bear, if they were to be of value to landowners and farmers, the hall-mark of national approval. Last year, along with the hon. Member for West Aberdeenshire, he had the honour of very informally seeing the Secretary for Scotland on the matter, and a small and informal scheme was laid before him. He expressed very high approval and said that all that was necessary, as far as he was concerned, was to get the requisite grant of money. It was suggested that there should be five stations placed in various parts of Scotland, under one directorate, where experiments would be carried out simultaneously, and that only £5,000 would be needed for the whole thing. He believed they would have in Scotland the means of making returns if this could be done. On the Continent they had had returns, which almost took one's breath away, from agricultural research. In Germany a little agricultural research had given them the great super-phosphate industry which had poured millions into their exchequer. In France one little bit of agricultural research resulted in the finding out of a way of dealing with vine disease, which had been the means of adding greatly to the wealth of the country. It was said that twice as much as was paid to the Germans in indemnity had been saved. A great deal might be done in Scotland. One gentleman had told him that through ignorance of plant life there had been wasted as much as would have paid our National Debt several times over during the past century. The Scotch people were to get for education £50,000 less than they expected. If the Government would only devote a tithe of that sum to agricultural research they would gain a great deal of kudos and never regret their action.

Mr. COLVILLE said that North East Lanark had suffered from the withholding of a grant in respect of an evening school. The school was of the greatest advantage to the district, and he, therefore, trusted the Lord Advocate would seriously consider the propriety of continuing the allowance. Evening continuation schools tended to raise the social tone of a district, and, therefore, they ought to receive the greatest possible encouragement.

*Mr. ALEXANDER WYLIE (Dumbartonshire) said that evening schools had been of the greatest benefit to the industrial classes in Scotland; they had enabled many young artisans to rise to professions, and they had otherwise done great good to the community. In the county he represented there was some years ago a considerable falling off in attendance at the schools, but recently, fostered by the grant and other causes, it had been better. He hoped the Lord Advocate would take what had been said into careful consideration, and endeavour to see that the grant was not only restored, but increased.

*Mr. HEDDERWICK was not surprised that his hon. Friend the Member for Falkirk Burghs should have struck a somewhat plaintive note to-night, for he had been rather harshly treated by the Government he supported. Not only had the Government disbanded a regiment of Volunteers who were no doubt as loyal to their representative as apparently they were to their superior officers, but they were attempting to disband the evening schools. If the Government continued to pursue this high Imperial policy much further in Airdrie he could well imagine that his hon. Friend might speedily find himself in the painful position of representing nothing but the desolate stones of that historic and interesting Burgh. For ten years past this sum of money had been granted to these continuation schools without any question being raised. The schools were of the most beneficial character. They took up young people at a period of life when memory was most likely to be affected. Anyone who would go to the trouble of looking over the statistics of these schools would see that the subjects taught were of the highest value; many of them were technical subjects, or such subjects as could not be taught to children of tender years. He understood that the Lord Advocate proposed to cut off the grant because, as there was no restriction of age, the schools were not entitled to earn grant. He did not quite understand the Lord Advocate's position. Under Section 1 of the Education Act of 1872 a public school meant any parish or poor school or any school under the management of a School Board established under the Act. By Section 40 it was enacted that it should be lawful for a School Board to establish and maintain one or more evening schools for the instruction of scholars above 13 years of age, and that such evening schools should be deemed public schools. Section 67 enacted that public schools so established should be entitled, where the rate did not amount to 7s. 6d. per child, to such a sum from the money in the power of Parliament to grant, as should make up the sum to a sum equal to 7s. 6d. It, therefore, seemed to him perfectly clear that these evening schools were entitled to this grant, a grant which, as he had said, they had been in the habit of receiving for the past 10 years. There seemed to be no conceivable reason why the grant should have been cut off, more especially in a year when the House had been voting enormous sums of money for promoting education in England, upon lines which the representatives of the people of Scotland certainly did not approve of. He sincerely hoped the Government would give their attention to the subject.

MR. J. CALDWELL (Lanark, Mid) cordially concurred in all that had been said as to the Inspectors. They naturally looked forward to promotion; it was the natural impetus, but no hope whatever had been held out. Every Sub-inspector ought to have the idea that he would be a Chief Inspector some day, and these men had to do the work of the Chief Inspectors. What were the public schools provided by the Board? It was as much their duty to provide these evening schools as it was to provide day schools. It was well to say that they were following the English Act, but that Act was altogether different. Here the code could be altered by a Department, but in Scotland the Code rested on an Act of Parliament. He hoped, therefore, the Lord Advocate would give this matter, which was of so much importance to Scotch education, his closest attention. He called attention also as to the statistics of school attendance, and urged the importance of having these statistics. They ought to have a return every year of the children who were receiving instruction. They ought also to have statistics as to the children under the different standards. These returns as to the standards should be given year by year. Further, they ought to have the ages of the children in the different standards. In the Glasgow School Board they did give the ages of the children. The continual changes that were made altogether prevented a proper estimate being formed of the progress of education in Scotland. Then, with regard to the system of examination by the inspectors. Instead of individual examination, the examination was conducted in a rough and ready fashion. The inspector made casual visits and stated the results of his observations. The system was a very dangerous one. It might suit the teachers and Inspectors, and might be a good one so far as well conducted and efficient schools were concerned; but in the case of other schools it did not afford a sufficient check. With regard to the older scholars, in the V., VI., and ex-VI. standards, there were to be individual examinations. Formerly children who passed the higher standard got a certificate, and that certificate was much valued. Now they got no certificate, so that there was now no inducement to children to remain at school longer than was necessary. Perhaps the greatest blot on the educational system in Scotland was the insufficiency of the training colleges. The supply of teachers who had passed through the training colleges was not in any sense equal to the demand. The Report of the Department stated that the training colleges could only turn out 450 trained teachers every year, and that that number was not equal to the annual waste that was going on, which was calculated at 6 per cent. But no increase in certificated teachers was required to meet the increased school attendance, and the number of certificated teachers was increased last year by

658; 658 teachers had to be provided for and yet the waste that was going on was not even provided for. The result was that every Inspector in Scotland was lamenting the fact that the number of untrained teachers was going on increasing, when the Department ought to go on training as many as were required. Large numbers were rejected every year because there was no room in the training colleges to receive them. One might almost think that the Scotch Education Department was a trade union, whose object was to limit the supply of teachers and so to keep up wages. The effect on the education of the country was that there was not that choice of teachers there ought to be, and that untrained teachers had to be employed. Why should not every person who was willing to enter the training colleges be trained? According to the Report of the Department the total number of teachers added this year was only 667, and that did not meet anything like the demand. It must be admitted that it was a very poor policy that did not supply as many trained teachers as were required. As regarded the cost of maintenance, in the public schools of Scotland it amounted to £2 9s. 6¼d., and in the Voluntary Schools to £2 4s. 4¾d.; while in England, in Board Schools the cost of maintenance was only £2 5s. 3¼d., and in Voluntary Schools, excluding the Metropolis, £1 18s. 5d. Thus, in Scotland the cost of maintenance in Voluntary Schools was 6s. per child more than in Voluntary Schools in England. What was the effect? Formerly before the School Board came into operation, every parish school was able to turn out pupils qualified to enter the University. That could not be done now-a-days, and the result was that the attendance at the Scottish Universities was going down year by year. He ventured to say that secondary education was in a very bad way in Scotland at this moment. There was a want of connection running up from the elementary school to the University. Something ought to be done with a view to increasing and improving secondary education. Instead of giving certain schools an addition of only 3s., as was proposed, when the ratepayers and the parents have been sacrificing more than 6s. more than in England, the time had come when those schools which were trying to do the work of secondary education in Scotland should be subsidised. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had promised a sum of about £30,000 or £40,000 and he believed the only difficulty in the matter was that the Scotch Office could not make up their minds what to do with it. He would be glad to know whether the Government were prepared to distribute that money, and in what way. Another matter to which he wished to call attention was the question of the Ardchattan Board School. That school was filled and provided ample accommodation for the children of the parish, yet an Episcoplian school was started and received a grant. There were only two families belonging to the Episcopalian Church in the district, and one of them was the family of the school teacher. The establishment of this school was in violation of the Act of Parliament, which said that no new school was to be sanctioned unless it was required in the locality, regard being had to the accommodation and to the religious belief of the parents. The new school at Ardchattan was not required on the ground of accommodation. Was it required on the ground of the religious belief of the parents? Was the Episcopalian doctrine so essentially different from the Presbyterian doctrine that an Episcopalian could not be expected to send his child to a Presbyterian school? In Scotland Protestant distinctions had never been recognised, and the Treaty of Union itself laid down that Episcopacy was not to be recognised in that country. In Scotland, therefore, the Government were not entitled to subsidise Episcopacy in any way as a distinct religious belief. To set up a rival Episcopalian school, and thus to attempt to prevent the Board School from earning the full grant which it would otherwise earn was unjustifiable. Out of pure cussedness the Scotch education Department had been fighting with the ratepayers and the School Board and trying for years to force this school upon them. Such proceedings were not dignified, and it was not to the interest of education that such things should be done.

*Mr. J. A. CAMPBELL (Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities) said that the hon. Member who had just spoken had referred to him for confirmation of his statement that the attendance at the

Scottish Universities was less than it had been. The hon. Member quoted that fact as indicating that the people of Scotland under the present system of education did not show the same interest in advanced education as they had done in former years. But he seemed to forget that in recent years there had been changes in the regulation of the Universities of Scotland, which necessarily affected the attendance of students. In those changes he had been privileged to take a small part. One of them was the introduction of an entrance examination, which had diminished the attendance in the meantime at the Arts classes. Circumstances of that kind ought to be taken into account, and the diminution of the numbers at the Universities ought not to be ascribed to any lack of interest in University education. Passing from this point, he wished to associate himself with those who had expressed their sense of the great importance of evening continuation schools, especially in populous places. These schools were an absolute necessity in the interests of education. He did not know what had caused the change in the administration of the Education Department in this matter. He trusted that if the Department found it necessary to withdraw assistance in one form from these schools, it would find some other way of assisting them as effectually. What was felt by all friends of education to be most disappointing was that scholars were taken away from school at so early an age. It had been thought by many that the abolition of school fees would have facilitated the retention of children at school, but unfortunately the change had not resulted in much improvement in that respect. Children taken from school at an early age would not have had an education that was effective, and it was a necessary consequence that what they had not been able to receive in the day school must be otherwise obtained by attendance at the evening continuation schools. He was sorry that the instance in which this new rule had been applied was in the school at Airdrie. He had some knowledge of the educational enthusiasm of the Airdrie School Board, and it was a matter of regret that it should have been one of the first to suffer by the change. Personally he knew what the Board had done in the way of promoting higher education, and their efforts were worthy of all praise. The Board had given free education from the lowest grade to the highest in the Airdrie Schools. He hoped that what the Board had now lost would be made up to them in some other form.

The LORD ADVOCATE said that the first point raised by the hon. Member for Dundee (Sir J. Leng) was the promotion of sub-inspectors to chief inspectorships. The Committee should bear in mind in judging of this question that by the present regulations of the Department sub-inspectors were chosen from one class alone—namely, the certificated teachers in the elementary schools. He could not help thinking that the plea which the hon. Member had urged would, if adopted, be a very double-edged benefit, because it would mean that all chief inspectors should be taken from the ranks of the sub-inspectors, and before this could be done they would have to abolish the regulations under which sub-inspectors were taken from the elementary schools. It appeared that the hon. Member wished very much to keep from being made public any names in connection with this matter, and he was anxious to follow that example. At the same time he did not think that this precaution mattered very much, because, from the hon. Member's reference as well as from his own, there could scarcely be any doubt as to whom it was meant to refer. When the hon. Member characterised a recent appointment as that of a tenth-rate scholar who had acted as private tutor to a Judge of the Court of Session, who at one time occupied the position of Lord Advocate, he thought the Committee would be astonished to hear that this gentleman had acted for many years as assistant to Professor Leighton, that he had acted in conjunction with the late Professor Sellar, with Professors Harvey and Goodheart, and that the Education Department had the testimony of these three very distinguished scholars, and also of Professor Butcher that his scholarship attainments were of the highest order indeed. [*Cheers.*] The hon. Member was therefore giving currency to a piece of mere gossip.

*SIR J. LENG: I quoted the University record of this gentleman. I presume the Lord Advocate does not dispute that? I cannot see how he can reconcile that record with his statement.

THE LORD ADVOCATE supposed that it could be reconciled in this way—that the gentleman learned some things after being at the University, where some persons did not learn very much. [*Laughter.*] They had, however, the testimony of the Chairman of the Glasgow School Board, the Chief Inspector in Scotland, and the head of the whole Department, that the services of this gentleman had been of the most thorough character since he had been appointed to the post. He might dismiss also as gossip what the hon. Member said about some appointments in previous days of various persons who had been masters at the school at Fochabers. It was not the case that the Duke of Richmond and Gordon had anything to do with the matter. One of the gentlemen appointed was one of the most distinguished scholars in Scotland, and therefore, while recognising the perfect right and propriety of raising the general question of sub-inspectors, he rather regretted that the information which had been supplied to the hon. Member had been of a very gossipy and trivial character. The next question was as to evening continuation schools. He did not think that he need point further than to the report of the present year to show that the Department was fully alive to the great benefit of those schools, and that it took a pride in the progress which they were making. He hoped it would not be thought for a moment that the Department did not recognise the great work which was being done by the evening continuation schools, but as to the question as a whole he could not help thinking that the Committee was under a misapprehension. It was not the case, as the hon. Member for Falkirk appeared to allege, that Airdrie had been singled out for exceptional treatment. Nor was it the case that this was a matter which was mooted for the first time this year. It seemed to have been the first time this year so far as Airdrie was concerned, because presumably it had escaped the notice of the Department, but it was not a new departure of the Department this year, because, as a matter of fact, it was done two years ago. When evening continuation schools were still something quite new, nobody thought it worth while to raise the question, but when a great impetus was given to their establishment by the Evening Continuation School Code, and the schools began to increase by leaps and bounds, then the Department was brought face to face with what was the legal position under the 67th Section. The argument of the hon. Gentleman had been that a public school meant any public or burgh school under the Act, but the view of the Department was that, inasmuch as the pupils at the evening continuation schools were "scholars," and not "children," they did not fall within the 67th Section, which applied to children only. He thought the Department was perfectly right in its interpretation of the law on this subject. Apart from technicalities, what was the meaning of the "necessitous" clause? It meant that where you had a poor district, there you should come to the assistance of such poor district. But if the Committee gave the interpretation which the hon. Member contended for, they would go in exactly the opposite direction, because evening continuation schools, generally speaking, were not to be found in poor districts at all, but in cities. They would therefore have the extraordinary result of places like Aberdeen described as a "necessitous" and poor district if they counted the scholars at the evening continuation schools. The Department, after all, could only act upon the advice it got, and, in his opinion, as he had said, they had been rightly advised. Moreover, it was exactly the same in England, because, in calculating the "necessitous" grant in England, the average attendance at the evening schools was not included. On the whole, surely the Department could not be blamed for doing what it was bound to do by law; still less could it be accused of having any spite against Airdrie or any other town. Having exhausted the matters of general interest he turned to some of the remarks of the hon. Member for Lanark. As to giving the number of presentations, he understood there was a difficulty, because there was now no individual presentations. The hon. Member complained of changes in the Code, and, of course, it was rather difficult to answer this complaint. Changes, no doubt, there were from time to time, and one of the effects was to prevent very accurate comparison between the results of one year and another; but he could not help thinking that if there were no changes, the hon. Member would say that the Department was not up to the times, and that there ought to be changes to meet the advance of educational opinion. It was quite obvious the Department could not satisfy both views. As to the hon. Member's remarks upon training colleges, of course the question of supplying trained teachers had always presented difficulties, and the Department had always been very anxious to increase the means of supply. On page 18 of the Report there was special reference to this subject, and the Commissioners drew attention to the changes made in the Code for 1895 which made it possible for the Universities to share in providing the supply by the institution of the classes of Queen's students. They went on to say this had been taken advantage of to some extent, and they were prepared to entertain proposals in the same direction, showing their anxiety to do everything they could to facilitate the supply of trained teaching. Something was also said about secondary education in schools, and there again the hon. Member would agree with the general view of the Department that more good would be done by concentrating secondary education in a few well-equipped schools than by frittering away efforts over a large number of schools, many of which had not proper appliances. Then the hon. Member asked a question as to the arrears of school grants. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had promised the money, and it was arranged that it should be drawn upon, of course in the form of Estimates, as from time to time it was required by the Department, and as a matter of fact this money was and had been all necessary to pay for the additional two shillings over and above the ten shillings capitation grant. Accordingly the answer he gave a few days ago on the Education Bill as to the exhaustion of the supply from which the two shillings came included the money which was due to the Department under the head of arrears of grants; that was to say that by the end of this year that money would be entirely exhausted, and if they had not got the promise from the Chancellor of the Exchequer to make up the two shillings in the future they would have been able to pay no more than the ten shillings capitation grant which Scotland got in common with England. This he thought completed the topics raised. ["Highland schools!"] Well, as to the manner in which technical education had been dealt with there were Papers on the Table of the House showing the past policy of the Department. What the Department had tried mostly to do was to induce burghs having command of secondary education funds to put them at the disposal of county committees so that they should be made available in the best manner. No doubt in the Highlands the position was different, because it was really out of the question to bring technical education at the door of everybody. All that the Department could do was to try to get teaching at convenient and more populous centres, putting at the disposal of persons living in the Highlands such advantages as they were able to offer. But geographical difficulties the Department could not overcome, or hope to bring a certain form of education to everybody's door in the Highlands. As to the action of School Boards he had nothing more to say than had been said by himself and his predecessors, and he was sure the Committee would not desire to be inflicted with it again.

*Mr. J. WILSON (Falkirk Burghs) had listened with a certain amount of regret to the remarks of the Lord Advocate, regret which he believed would be shared in all parts of the House, on the question of the suspension of grants in aid of evening continuation schools. He had mentioned a town in his constituency, but the grievance was not confined to Airdrie. School Boards in other towns in other Scottish constituencies had been penalised by the action of the Department. Certainly the Government had shown in a very remarkable way the feeling expressed by the Lord Advocate as "being fully alive to the value of continuation schools" in withdrawing grants with which so much good had been done. The School Board of Airdrie was one of the first to adopt these schools, and by the aid of these grants free education had for the past 12 years been given to workmen whose education had been neglected in their earlier years. But suddenly, and without notice, the Scotch Education Department had chosen to withdraw this grant, being advised that it was not competent for them to continue it. He maintained that they were not justified in their interpretation of Section 67, and painful though it was to him as a loyal supporter of the Government, he felt it his duty to take a Division upon this change of policy. The town of Airdrie had recently had the particular attention of a Unionist Government, first by the disbandment, without inquiry, of a corps of 700 decent working men volunteers, and then by the disbandment of its evening classes by the withdrawal of the grant. As to the first of these two incidents, another opportunity would be found for discussion, but on the question of the continuation school grant he should invite an expression of opinion from the Committee. He had no expectation of a majority, knowing that Members would trip in to the support of the Government at the call of a Division, but he counted on the support of the intelligent opinion of all Scotch Members who had listened to the discussion. He moved the reduction of the Vote by £100.

*Mr. WYLIE agreed that the Education Department were legally and technically correct in withdrawing the subsidy for the evening schools. But the fact remained that the grant was supporting many schools with great benefit, and that schools were considered necessitous in former years which probably would not come strictly under that definition. Believing that the grant was of great benefit to many schools—not only to that at Airdrie, but to many in other parts of the country—he should support the hon. Member for Falkirk.

Question put, "That a sum, not exceeding £604,833, be granted for the said Service."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 29; Noes, 55.—(Division List, No. 247.)

Original Question put, and agreed to.

7. £2,000 to complete the sum for National Gallery, etc., Scotland.

*Mr. WEIR said he noticed that there was an increase of £40 in the grant to the National Gallery. But there was also a sum of £11,040 set aside for South Kensington Museum. That sum, he understood, would not be required in consequence of the condition of South Kensington Museum—the inflammatory condition of the Museum. [*Laughter.*] He wished to urge on the right hon. Gentleman the necessity for going to the Chancellor of the Exchequer in regard to this paltry grant to the National Gallery of Scotland, and making an endeavour to extract from him some of the £11,000 that would not be required for South Kensington.

The LORD ADVOCATE understood that the appeal of the hon. Gentleman had been addressed to the Chancellor of the Exchequer. He saw the right hon. Gentleman in his seat, and if he had not been present during the speech of the hon. Gentleman, he would, no doubt, read his speech on the following morning—[*laughter*]—and give due consideration to what had been urged in it.

Vote agreed to.

Class VII.

8. Motion made, and Question proposed,

> "That a sum, not exceeding £17,500, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1898, for expenditure in connection with certain public works, and for improved communications, and other purposes, within the Highlands and Islands of Scotland."

*Mr. WEIR complained that there was a diminution of the grant made for the steamboat services in the Highlands, which meant that the steamboat accommodation in these parts would be greatly diminished. He hoped the Government would be prevailed upon to reconsider their decision in the matter, and provide the necessary money to keep up this communication. He also complained that there had been reductions in the amounts allocated for the provision of piers and harbours, lighthouses and beacons, and other necessary works. The Ross-shire County Council, and the Orkney and Shetlands County Council had sent him petitions protesting against these reductions. The majority of the Ross-shire County Council were supporters of the Government. It was a Tory County Council, and not a Radical County Council, and yet its members condemned in the strongest manner the withdrawal of these grants. The Lewis District Committee had passed resolutions regretting the withdrawal of grants for piers and road-making in the district. A large proportion of the cost had been promised, and free labour, both for making piers and roads, offered by the people. The withdrawal of the grants had had a disturbing influence on the population. Gunboats had been sent there before now to maintain order, in consequence of the treatment of the people by the landlords. It was not fair that local people interested in these improvements should have to put their hands into their pockets to provide plans, and make other preliminary outlays for piers, boatslips, etc., and after this expense had been incurred and the plans approved by the authorities to find that the Government would furnish no money to carry out the works. He hoped the money would be provided, and that the works would be pushed forward and finished. Under the Light Railways Act the Highland Railway Company would probably make an arrangement for the construction of a light railway across the island of Lewis, but they could do nothing until the Carloway Road was finished. He appealed to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to have some consideration for the little children in the Highlands who had to cross the moors in order to reach the school houses, and regretted that the money which was being devoted to the making of the necessary pathways had been withdrawn.

MR. MUNRO FERGUSON referred to the making of the Carloway Road across the island of Lewis. He believed it was originally anticipated that a sum of £15,000 would be necessary for this road, but it was now estimated that a sum of £8,000 or £10,000 more was required. He wished to know whether the Government intended to finish the road. The prosperity of the island depended chiefly on the development of the fishing industry, and if they could have a light tramway running from the west to the east coast it would do more to develop the fishing industry than anything else. He thought the reduction of the Vote was a very large one; the expenditure in regard to the minor roads had certainly been extremely useful in developing the resources of the Highlands, and they hoped also that the reduction in the case of piers and harbours would be reconsidered.

MR. PARKER SMITH (Lanark, Partick) said he regretted very much the large reduction which was made on this Vote, as he believed the money had done a great deal of good in some of the wildest and poorest parts of the country. He regretted also the sudden and unexpected manner in which the reduction had been made. He believed the road to which the hon. Gentleman had alluded was a thoroughly unsatisfactory undertaking; and to spend more money on it would have been foolish. But there were a great number of small works, such as the making of piers and foot-paths, which ought to have been continued. He would also point out that all the money voted for those works in past Sessions had not been so spent; and under the rules of the Treasury the balances had to be returned again. In 1894-5 the amount voted was £36,000; the amount actually spent, £23,000; and the amount surrendered to the Treasury, £13,000. In 1895-6 the amount voted was £39,000; the amount actually spent, £34,700; and the amount voted to the Treasury, £4,300. In 1896-7 the amount voted was £36,200; the amount actually spent, £27,200, and the amount voted £9,000. That meant that in those three years £26,000 out of the amounts voted had been given back to the Treasury. Under those circumstances the reduction of the Vote by £10,000 was most uncalled for. He thought that out of those savings the Vote should have been kept up.

*MR. HEDDERWICK said that in the programme published by the First Lord of the Treasury on behalf of his Party in the General Election of 1895, one of the items was for public works on the west coast of Scotland. Of course, great weight was attached to the words of the right hon. Gentleman, and as a consequence, in many parts of the North of Scotland, relying on the words of the right hon. Gentleman, plans for public works were prepared, were submitted to the Department and approved of; but owing to the reduction in the Vote those works had practically been stopped. He asked the right hon. Gentleman some time ago when the Government proposed to institute the public works which the right hon. Gentleman alluded to in 1895, and the right hon. Gentleman referred him to the Vote in the Estimates; but on looking up that Vote he found that there was a considerable reduction. They were therefore entitled to demand some explanation from the Government of the reduction of the Vote, especially as it was admitted by all those who knew the Highlands that the works which had been carried out under the grant were of a highly beneficial character to the Highlands.

THE LORD ADVOCATE said that the Committee should remember what was the origin of this Vote. A Commission reported that it would be desirable in the interests of the Highlands and Islands to undertake certain works of public utility, and an expenditure of about £170,000 was suggested. Parliament had entirely carried out that recommendation, and, indeed, more than the sum originally promised had been expended from year to year. The Estimate this year was £10,000 less than that of last year; but there would not be at all a corresponding decrease in expenditure. As to the general question of helping the Highlands and islands, the First Lord of the Treasury, in the speeches which had been referred to, said that it was a proper thing occasionally to use Imperial money for the development of outlying districts. That promise had been most amply redeemed. It was necessary to look beyond the amount of the particular Vote to what had been done generally for the Highlands. Last year the Government gave a guarantee for a railway, and this year they had promised an additional £20,000 a year to be spent by the Congested Districts Commission. As to the Carloway Road, only £12,545 of the Vote of £15,000 had been spent; but the question would have to be dealt with shortly, because the Estimates had been too small. Subhead C of £1,000 would be used for making minor roads and footpaths. As to the diminution of the sum for steamer communication, the Vote was originally given on the recommendation of the Highlands and Islands Commission that money should be spent for a limited period in improving the existing communications. But it was also recommended that if the experiment were found not to stimulate trade sufficiently to make the service self-supporting, it should be discontinued. Last year a Departmental Committee was appointed to inquire into the results of this steamer service; and the Committee reported that no great improvement in the trade of the districts served had been effected. They went into the matter, and resolved that so far as the direct service from Oban to Stromness was concerned, it might very well be discontinued, because there were other ways of taking the mails. So far as the round route was concerned, they recommended that the service of two steamers going in opposite directions might be replaced by a service of one steamer, and, so far as the question of trade was involved, it was quite certain that they were amply justified in their proposal. There did arise the question of postal communication. His right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer was, of course, prepared to stand entirely to the promises he made in his Budget speech, and he had his authority to say that, without committing himself in any way, and entirely associating himself with the report of the Departmental Committee, he would be happy to consider the matter from the postal point of view. If he found it necessary, in order to come up to the letter or the spirit of his promises, to reconsider the scheme of the Departmental Committee, he would do so, keeping in view, of course, the question of postal communication, which was not directly before the Departmental Committee. He hoped that would be satisfactory to hon. Members.

*MR. WEIR was glad to hear that the Chancellor of the Exchequer would endeavour to give effect to the promises he had made in connection with postal reforms. He wished to draw attention for a moment to the statement of the Lord Advocate, that £170,000 had been expended on works in the Highlands and Islands. He did not know whether he was aware that the Napier Report strongly recommended that a harbour should be made at Portnaguran, Lewis, at a cost of £30,000. Nothing had been done. A sum had been voted annually for piers, harbours, and minor works, but there was a want of energy, of effort, or of tact on the part of those who had the expenditure of the money. The money ought to have been spent. The Highlands were too poor to allow £10,000 to go back into the Treasury each year. They could not afford to have any money diverted from the congested districts of the Highlands of Scotland. They would have the question of "black" houses to deal with as soon as the Public Health Act became law, and every penny of the £20,000 would be wanted to build suitable houses for the people. He would like to ask the Lord Advocate what progress was being made with the Carloway Road.

THE LORD ADVOCATE said he could not tell the hon. Member exactly the number of men engaged on the works, but, as he understood, the works were in progress and that the money would be expended.

MR. DONALD NICOL (Argyll) asked the Lord Advocate, in regard to the satisfactory statement he had made with regard to postal communication, whether they were to have from the Chancellor of the Exchequer the same postal facilities on the West Highlands as they had at present; whether they were to have, as they had before, a six days' service, or a three days' service, as was proposed in the report of the Departmental Committee?

THE LORD ADVOCATE said he could not pin his right hon. Friend down to details. The matter would be considered in the light of the Report of the Departmental Committee and of the promise made in the Budget speech.

*MR. HEDDERWICK said he could not regard the statement of the Lord Advocate as satisfactory, and by way of protest against this considerable reduction of the Vote, he begged to move its further reduction by £1,000. [*A laugh and ironical cries of* "Agreed!"]

Question put, "That a sum not exceeding £16,500 be granted for the said Service."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 16; Noes, 55.—(Division List, No. 248.)

Original Question put, and agreed to.

Resolutions to be reported upon Monday next; Committee to sit again upon Monday next.

SUPPLY [24TH JUNE].

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES 1897–8.

CLASS V.

Resolution reported:—

1. "That a sum, not exceeding £238,212, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1898, for the expenses of Her Majesty's Embassies and Missions abroad, and of the Consular Establishments abroad, and other expenditure chargeable on the Consular Vote."

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Mr. G. CURZON, Lancashire, Southport): May I be permitted to say a word with reference to the discussion that took place yesterday afternoon on the question of slavery in Zanzibar? It may be in the recollection of hon. Members that certain documents were produced by hon. Members on the Opposition side of the House purporting to be authorisations issued by the British Administrator at Mombasa with reference to the restoration of fugitive slaves. I should like to say what perhaps I ought to have said yesterday, that these documents were entirely new to Her Majesty's Government. We were quite unaware of their existence. We have never seen them. They were supplied to hon. Gentlemen opposite, and they were brought before the notice of the House. I take this opportunity of saying that, in the Foreign Office, we shall be very much obliged if hon. Members will give us copies of the originals of these documents in order that we may examine and discover their real purport. There is also another remark which I wish to make with reference to the assurances given by the Leader of the House last night—that we are already sending out specific instructions to our representative at Mombasa that no proceedings of the kind referred to should take place in future.

MR. SYDNEY GEDGE (Walsall) said he was very glad to hear the statement the right hon. Gentleman had made. He was quite sure that if it had been made the previous night, it would have prevented several Members voting in the opposite Lobby.

Resolution agreed to.

2. "That a sum, not exceeding £117,463, be granted to Her Majesty to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1898, for Grants in Aid of the Expenses of the British Protectorates in Uganda and in Central and East Africa, and under The Uganda Railway Act, 1896."

3. "That a sum, not exceeding £64,876 (including an additional sum of £1,950), be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum

necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 1st day of March 1898, for sundry Colonial Services, including certain Grants in Aid, and Expenses incurred under 'The Pacific Islanders' Protection Act, 1875,' and certain Charges connected with South Africa."

4. "That a sum, not exceeding £1,128, be granted to Her Maiesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1898, for Expenses in connection with the Suppression of the Slave Trade, and the Maintenance of certain Liberated Africans."

5. "That a sum, not exceeding £34,100, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1898, for the Subsidies to certain Telegraph Companies."

Resolutions agreed to.

REVENUE DEPARTMENTS.

6. "That a sum, not exceeding £771,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1898, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Customs Department."

*Mr. WEIR said he had refrained from mentioning a matter in connection with this Vote last night, in the hope of receiving a communication from the Chairman of the Board of Inland Revenue, to whom he had written.

The SECRETARY to the TREASURY (Mr. R. W. Hanbury, Preston): Is it not a question about a dog license to which the hon. Member wishes to refer?

*Mr. WEIR: Yes.

*Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. Member will not be in order in raising that question on this Vote.

Resolution agreed to,

7. "That a sum, not exceeding £1,721,272, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1898, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Inland Revenue Department."

*Mr. WEIR: Now, Sir, I have my opportunity. [*Laughter.*] The case to which he wished to call attention was that of a small crofter, who wrote to say that for the last six or seven years he had kept a collie dog, and latterly the authorities had refused to exempt him from the tax. Last year he was prosecuted for not taking out a license, and was fined in all 18s. He made a similar application for exemption this year, and the officials of the Department had not even the courtesy to send him a postcard in acknowledgment. Apparently the officers of the Inland Revenue had been too zealous in some of these poor parts of the country. The man whose case he was referring to had been fined £1 and costs by a justice of the peace court. He understood that the Inland Revenue had Morrison's case under consideration, and he only wished that the Department had attended to the business at an earlier stage. He wanted to know what was going to be done. Were people who were legally entitled to exemption going to be prosecuted time after time?

Mr. HANBURY did not think that the hon. Member had made out a very good case. The hon. Member had tried to prove that the officers of the Inland Revenue had exceeded their duty in prosecuting this man, but the fact that he was convicted by the magistrate was pretty good evidence that they had only performed their duty. The man complained that he was not granted exemption in respect of his dog. Well, what were the cases in which exemption was allowed. A shepherd who kept one or two dogs for the purpose of carrying on his occupation, was entitled to exemption. That exemption this man could not claim because he had not a single sheep of his own, but only a cow, a heifer or a calf. Then a farmer could claim exemption in respect of one or two dogs attending cattle or sheep upon his own farm. But the evidence in this case was that Morrison's dog was of great service to another man in keeping stray sheep off his farm. The dog was, therefore, used on another man's farm, and was not attending the owner's cattle or sheep, and so exemption could not be properly claimed.

Resolution agreed to.

Whereupon Motion made, and Question, "That this House do now adjourn," (*First Lord of the Treasury*)—put, and agreed to.

House adjourned accordingly at Five minutes after Twelve o'clock till Monday next.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, 28th June 1897.

PRIVATE BUSINESS.

RAILWAY CLEARING HOUSE BILL [H.L.].

Order read for resuming Adjourned Debate on Question [27th May],—

> "That it be an Instruction to the Committee on the Railway Clearing House Bill [Lords] that they insert provisions requiring the promoters to publish for the use of traders, on such terms and conditions as the Board of Trade may direct, any sectional or other railway maps constructed for the Railway Clearing House, indicating the different lines of railway and the distances along the same."—(*Mr. Tomlinson.*)

*Mr. W. E. M. TOMLINSON (Preston) said he was happy to say that he was now in a position to ask leave to withdraw his Motion. He had been met in a fair and generous spirit by the railway companies in reference to the matter which was the subject of his Instruction. The railway companies had agreed to allow the sale to traders of the maps to which he had referred, and if there was any other information which the Railway Clearing House could give, and which traders thought would be of use to them, he had no doubt that they would give favourable consideration to any proposals in reference to them which might be made through the Mansion House Association on Railway and Canal Traffic or otherwise. He ought to say that he was very much indebted to the hon. Member for Stretford for his exertions in furtherance of the objects they both had in view. He asked leave to withdraw his Motion. ["Hear!"]

Mr. MELLOR (Yorkshire, W.R., Sowerby) said that the statement of the hon. and learned Gentleman was most satisfactory. He had no doubt that as soon as the railway companies had it explained to them that the traders were asking for no more than they were entitled to they would speedily come to some understanding with the hon. and learned Gentleman that would be satisfactory to all concerned. He thought that the action of the right hon. Gentleman the President of the Board of Trade had conduced largely to the settlement of the question.

Mr. T. LOUGH (Islington, W.) wished to know from the right hon. Gentleman the President of the Board of Trade what had been done by his Department in the matter?

The PRESIDENT of the BOARD of TRADE (Mr. C. T. Ritchie, Croydon) thought that the decision at which the railway companies had arrived was of a very satisfactory nature, and that the action of the hon. and learned Gentleman had been fully justified. He had received the following letter from the Secretary of the Railway Clearing House in reference to the subject of the hon. and learned Gentleman's Motion:—

> "Railway Clearing House,
> "Seymour-street, Euston Square, London,
> "14th June, 1897.
>
> "Sir,—With reference to your letter of the 10th February last, stating that it appears to the Board of Trade very desirable that sectional maps of railways formerly issued by Mr. Airey should be reprinted and put on sale, I am instructed now to inform you that the Clearing House Committee have decided that in addition to the general railway maps of England, Scotland, and Ireland now on sale, sectional railway maps and diagrams, indicating the different lines of railway and showing distances between stations, shall also be placed on sale to the public.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
>
> "T. Stuart, Secretary.
>
> "The Assistant Secretary, Railway
> Department, Board of Trade."

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

QUESTIONS.

DELIVERY OF TELEGRAMS (NOTTINGHAM).

Mr. E. BOND (Nottingham, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he is aware that Mr. Carl Sipman, of Nottingham, to whom for many years telegrams addressed "Sipman, Nottingham," have been regularly delivered, has recently been informed that telegrams so addressed will be treated as undeliverable; whether the Post Office authorities have any right by statute or otherwise to refuse to deliver a prepaid telegram the addressee of which is perfectly well known at the office of delivery; and whether, if such right exists, he can give an assurance that it will not be exercised in view of the inconvenience and annoyance which its exercise will occasion?

THE SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. R. W. HANBURY, Preston): The Postmaster General is aware that Mr. Carl Sipman, of Nottingham, has been informed that telegrams addressed "Sipman, Nottingham," will, after the 31st August next, be treated as undeliverable. Mr. Sipman's case is covered by the answer I gave to the Question asked by the hon. Member on the 3rd instant. "Sipman, Nottingham," is not a sufficient address for telegrams, and the Postmaster General is not prepared to arrange for the continued delivery of telegrams so addressed unless Mr. Sipman registers the address in accordance with the usual practice.

CHANNEL SQUADRON.

SIR LEONARD LYELL (Orkney and Shetland): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty whether the Channel Squadron, or any part of it, will make its annual summer cruise round the north of Scotland this year; and, if so, whether Lerwick will be one of the ports visited?

THE CIVIL LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.): It is not probable that the Channel Squadron will visit the north of Scotland this summer.

KEW GARDENS.

MR. ALFRED BILLSON (Halifax): I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works (1) whether steps can be taken to publish without further delay a new edition of the Guide to the Royal Gardens, Kew, which has been out of print for several years, seeing that similar Questions have been asked in this House in 1891, 1892, 1893, and 1895, and that in 1892 the then First Commissioner of Works stated that the Guide was almost ready, and that it was hoped to issue it during the summer; (2) whether it is intended to continue the issue of the monthly bulletin of miscellaneous information in connection with Kew Gardens; (3) whether he is aware that the number for December last has not yet appeared; (4) whether only one number has been issued this year; and (5) whether any progress has been made with the continuation of the Flora of Tropical Africa, the completion of which was authorised by the Treasury in 1891, on the understanding that one volume would be published every two years; or whether, owing to the non-fulfilment of this condition, the authorisation has lapsed; and in that case, will it be renewed?

THE FIRST COMMISSIONER OF WORKS (Mr. AKERS-DOUGLAS, Kent, St. Augustine's): Owing to great pressure of work at Kew the Director seems unable to make rapid progress with the new edition of the general guide to the Gardens, beyond the preparation of guides to various departments, ten of which have been recently published and are on sale. The answer to paragraphs 2 and 3 of the hon. Member's Question is in the affirmative. Only one number has been issued this year (January). A new volume of the Flora of Tropical Africa will be ready next year. Instructions were last Autumn issued to the Director to have the work proceeded with as quickly as possible, and an additional assistant was given him that he might have more time for its supervision.

INNS OF COURT RIFLES.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucester, Forest of Dean): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that Mr. Mullick, a native of India resident in this country, after having been proposed and seconded as an eligible member of the Inns of Court Rifles, was informed by the Commanding Officer that, although he was personally unexceptionable, Indians being objected to by some members of the corps, the nomination must be withdrawn, the Officer writing to the effect that, being an Indian native gentleman, Mr. Mullick is not eligible for an English volunteer corps; whether natives of India belong to the University corps in Oxford and Cambridge and to many other corps; whether he is aware that an opinion has been expressed by the Benchers of the Inns of Court that the exclusion of Indians as a class is regrettable, and the Commanding Officer has stated publicly that there is a War Office memorandum which prohibits the enrolment of native Indians in English volunteer corps; whether there is any foundation for the statement of the Commanding Officer as to the order of the War Office; and, whether a correspondence has taken place between the Benchers of Gray's Inn and the Commanding Officer of the regiment, in which they state that the grounds on which Mr. Mullick has been declared ineligible are erroneous?

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): The admission of any subject of Her Majesty to a volunteer corps rests solely with the Commanding Officer. In Mr. Mullick's case it is understood that the Commanding Officer did not accept his nomination. There are natives of India serving in volunteer corps, and there is no War Office document prohibiting their enrolment. Owing to a misapprehension caused by some unofficial correspondence, the Commanding Officer of the Inns of Court Volunteers was led to believe that natives of India could not be enrolled, but this has been corrected. It is understood that there has been some correspondence between the Commanding Officer and the Benchers; but the Officer Commanding is the only authority as to persons to be enrolled in volunteer corps who can be recognised.

QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE.

MR. J. AIRD (Paddington, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he can now state the consideration to be given to the police force of the Metropolis for their arduous and most successful efforts in keeping order during the recent Jubilee rejoicings; and if it is intended to give a medal to the police on this special occasion?

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY, Lancashire, Blackpool): Yes, Sir, a medal will be issued to the police, and I have sanctioned, in addition, the grant of four days' extra pay.

MR. AIRD asked whether it was to be understood that the medals would be issued to all the police of the Metropolis?

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY: Yes, Sir, to the whole of the Metropolitan Police Force.

COLONEL DENNY (Kilmarnock Burghs): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been drawn to certain allegations in the Press that dissatisfaction exists among the Colonial troops as to their treatment by the Military authorities; and whether he can make a statement on the subject?

MR. BRODRICK: In reference to this Question the following letter was voluntarily addressed to the War Office on the 18th June by the officers commanding the various Colonial detachments, all of whose signatures are attached to it,—

> "Having seen in some of the daily papers that dissatisfaction exists amongst the Colonial troops stationed at Chelsea Barracks with reference to the treatment they have received from the military authorities, we have the honour to inform you that the report is entirely devoid of foundation.
>
> "The officers in command of every detachment from the colonies are unanimous in their opinion that the accommodation provided and arrangements made for the comfort of their troops reflect the greatest credit on the military authorities, enhanced as the difficulty is by having to deal with so many units of different nationalities."

It is further reported to the War Office by the Commanding Officer that, as far as he can judge, the feeling of all ranks under his command is one of resentment against those persons who have taken upon themselves the task of making complaints on their behalf. I can assure the House that nothing has been or will be wanting on the part of the authorities to render the stay of our Colonial guests as agreeable as possible. [*Cheers.*]

MR. LOUGH: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury who was responsible for the arrangements connected with the reception of the House of Commons at Buckingham Palace on Wednesday last; and whether any explanation of the circumstances has been received?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): In answer to the hon. Gentleman, I have to say that the persons responsible for the arrangements connected with the reception of the Houses of Parliament at Buckingham Palace are the Palace officials. I have received a communication from the Lord Chamberlain this morning in which he states that—

> "it had been the earnest wish of the officers of the Household to show the utmost respect to the Speaker and the Members of the House of Commons."

He expresses his very great regret that, notwithstanding their best endeavours, anything should have occurred to produce an unfavourable impression. [*Laughter.*] That is, I am afraid, all the information I can give the hon. Member.

MR. LOUGH: Will the right hon. Gentleman give the House an opportunity, in connection with some Vote on the Estimates, at an early date, to express its opinion. ["Oh!" *and cheers.*]

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: No, Sir; I do not think it will be possible in the first place; and, in the second place, I do not think it desirable that the House should express an opinion upon the discretion exercised by the officials at the Palace.

MR. E. BOULNOIS (Marylebone, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the fact that abnormal fares have been charged to the public during the last few days by the London General Omnibus Company, the Road Car Company, and some other omnibus proprietors, whereas cab proprietors were expressly warned that they must not make any difference in the scale of fares; and whether he can take steps in the interest of the poorer classes to prevent the recurrence of such a proceeding?

*SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY: I believe it is the case that very high fares were charged by omnibus proprietors on one or two days last week. This, however, was no violation of the Acts, which leave it to the proprietors to fix their own fares, and only require that the fares fixed shall be distinctly painted in a conspicuous place in the inside of the omnibus. Cab fares stand on an entirely different footing, being regulated, under statute, by a Home Office Order. I very much doubt whether it would be to the public advantage that omnibus fares should be similarly regulated.

MR. E. H. PICKERSGILL (Bethnal Green, S.W.) asked whether the right

hon. Gentleman had heard that the police were dissatisfied with the arrangement by which the extra fares were painted inside the omnibuses?

*SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY: No, Sir; I have heard nothing from the Police on the subject.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary for Ireland whether he is aware that a woman named Mrs. Fitzsimmons died from injuries received in a police baton charge on the 22nd inst., while Her Majesty's Jubilee was being celebrated in Dublin; whether he is aware that nearly 300 persons were treated in the hospitals of Dublin for injuries resulting from the baton charges of the police, and whether he will cause a sworn inquiry to be held with the view of fixing the responsibility for these outrages inflicted on the citizens of Dublin while exercising their legal rights?

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): There is no doubt that Mrs. Fitzsimmons met her death in consequence of injuries received by her during the disturbances that took place on Tuesday, the 22nd inst.; but whether death was actually caused by her being trampled upon by the crowd, or by her afterwards falling from the car on which she was being transported to the hospital, is uncertain. The fall from the car took place in consequence of the policeman in charge of the car being struck down by a blow from a stick or stone while in the act of discharging this office of humanity. I have no certain information of the number of persons who have been treated in the hospital for injuries received in the course of the disturbances, but I should imagine the number given by the hon. Member is in excess of the facts. It would be altogether premature to state whether any inquiry may be considered desirable.

MR. O'BRIEN asked whether in case the Coroner's jury brought in a verdict declaring that the police were responsible for Mrs. Fitzsimmons' death, would the Government accept it?

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! That is a hypothetical question.

MR. CHARLES SHAW (Stafford): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty if he is aware that on Saturday last, on board the *Campania*, at the naval review, there were 1,800 persons; that out of that number the Members of the House of Commons and their friends only amounted to 800; and how it arises that so large a percentage of those on board were members of the outside public, when the ship had been placed at the disposal, as understood, of the Members of the House of Commons? I also wish to ask into whose coffers the five guineas charge went for the accommodation of bed, breakfast, and dinner on board—whether to the Admiralty, or to the Cunard Company?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY not being present, no answer was given.

VOLUNTEER RIFLE RANGE (GLOUCESTERSHIRE).

GENERAL RUSSELL (Cheltenham): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether he is aware of the detriment to the public service resulting from there being no central range suitable for the new rifle now at the disposal of the Gloucestershire Volunteers; and whether he will consider favourably the desirability of allotting a portion of the money voted by Parliament for rifle ranges to provide a suitable range near Gloucester to replace the one recently condemned?

MR. BRODRICK: The money voted by Parliament for rifle ranges was primarily intended for the establishment of central ranges for the Regulars and Militia. There has been, however, every desire to find accommodation as far as possible for the Volunteers, and the position of the County of Gloucester will be considered.

MUZZLING ORDER (SHEEP DOGS).

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the west division of the County of Wicklow is an almost entirely mountainous country, whose inhabitants live mainly by sheep farming; and that the Muzzling Order to be issued on the 1st of July will seriously interfere with the business of the sheep farmers; and whether, in view of the losses which will be caused to sheep owners by the Muzzling Order, he will make the exception in favour of sheep dogs which is to be made in regard to sporting dogs?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: The exception made by the Muzzling Order in favour of sporting dogs applies only when such dogs are being exercised or used for sporting purposes, and in charge of competent persons. It must also be observed that the Order requires that all dogs, except sporting dogs on these special occasions, shall be muzzled in or on any public place which includes garden or pleasure ground or other place to which the public have access. No exemption in favour of sheep dogs has been made in the Muzzling Orders issued by the English Board of Agriculture, and my right hon. Friend the President of that Board, who was recently questioned on the subject, stated that the result of inquiries made by him went to show that no really serious inconvenience is caused by requiring sheep dogs to be muzzled in districts where such a measure is necessary, and that the exemption of such dogs from the operation of the Orders would seriously impair the efficiency of the Orders, and render necessary their continuance for a longer period than, it was hoped, would otherwise be requisite. I see no sufficient ground for making an exemption from the Order in favour of sheep dogs in Ireland.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR asked whether the right hon. Gentleman was aware that there were more sporting dogs than sheep dogs in the County of Wicklow, and whether, in that case, he did not think that it would be more dangerous to leave the majority of the dogs unmuzzled than to leave the minority unmuzzled?

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! That is a matter of opinion.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis) asked whether the right hon. Gentleman was aware that sheep dogs could not do their work unless they were able to bite the sheep?

[No answer was given.]

EGYPTIAN POLITICAL PRISONERS.

MR. MICHAEL DAVITT (Mayo, S.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether appeals for the remission of their sentences of exile have lately been received from some of the Egyptian political prisoners at present detained at Ceylon; and, if so, whether there is any objection to having copies of these appeals laid upon the Table of the House?

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Mr. G. CURZON, Lancashire, Southport): The Governor of Ceylon has forwarded memorials from certain of the Egyptian exiles in that island to the Queen and to Lord Salisbury, praying for the exercise of Her Majesty's influence towards obtaining for them permission to leave Ceylon and to take up their abode in Cyprus. There would be no objection to laying copies of these Papers on the Table if it was so desired. But the matter is one primarily for the consideration of the Egyptian Ministry, who are reported by Lord Cromer to be much averse to granting the application.

MR. J. DILLON (Mayo, E.) desired to ask, in connection with this Question, whether Lord Cromer was not in a position to decide the Egyptian Ministry in one way or the other in this as in all other matters?

MR. CURZON: No, Sir. That is not at all a correct description of the attitude or position of Lord Cromer. He reports to us the views of the Egyptian Ministry in the matter, which I have already stated to the House.

MR. DAVITT asked if he understood that Papers were to be laid on the Table?

MR. CURZON: If it is the desire of hon. Members they shall be laid.

MR. DAVITT: There is such a desire, and I trust they will be forthcoming.

MR. CURZON: They shall be.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES asked whether, in laying on the Table the Papers promised, the right hon. Gentleman would also lay such Papers as would show in virtue of what authority and under what law, international or municipal, these prisoners are detained?

MR. CURZON: No, Sir; it is quite unnecessary.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: Can the right hon. Gentleman say now by what authority they are detained?

[No answer was given.]

VOLUNTARY SCHOOL RATE (DIDSBURY).

MR. J. CARVELL WILLIAMS (Notts, Mansfield): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he is aware that the Demand Note for the General District Rate of the Urban District Council of Withington, Manchester, contains the item: Didsbury Voluntary School Rate, at 1d. in the pound, optional; and whether he will take steps to procure the omission of the item in future?

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. HENRY CHAPLIN, Lincolnshire, Sleaford): At present I can only state that I am in communication with the Urban District Council on the subject. The Question is to be considered by them at a meeting to-morrow.

CHURCH CATECHISM (NORTH MUNDHAM BOARD SCHOOL).

MR. CARVELL WILLIAMS: I beg to ask the Vice President of the Committee of Council on Education whether the Church Catechism is still taught, wholly or in part, in the North Mundham Board School; whether he is aware that on Ascension Day the scholars were taken to church in the morning, and had a holiday in the afternoon, though they were to be examined by the Government Inspector the next day; and whether the Department will take steps to insure the due observance by the Board of the provisions of the Education Act of 1870?

THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL (Sir JOHN GORST, Cambridge University): I believe parts of the Church Catechism not distinctive of any particular denomination are still taught in North Mundham Board School. I have no information as to the proceedings of the school on Ascension Day, but if they were such as are suggested in the Question they seem unobjectionable. The Committee of Council have no reason to suppose that the North Mundham School Board will fail to observe the provisions of the Education Act of 1870.

SUB-POSTMASTERS (DELIVERY OF TELEGRAMS).

MR. R. J. PRICE (Norfolk, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether it is true that the new scale of allowances to sub-postmasters for delivery of telegrams has been reduced as follows: from 1 mile to 1½ miles, 33 per cent.; from 2 miles to 3 miles, 25 per cent.; from 3 miles to 4 miles, 25 per cent.; and from 4 miles to 5 miles, 25 per cent.; and whether it is intended that any part of the cost of the proposed reduction in porterage of telegrams should be paid by sub-postmasters?

MR. HANBURY: No new scale of allowances to sub-postmasters for the delivery of telegrams has been definitely fixed. The Postmaster General, however, hopes that, by the extended use of the cycle and in other ways, it will be possible to effect some economy in the arrangements for delivery, and he has asked for a report from his local officers on the expediency of adopting a scale which at some points involves the reductions stated by the hon. Member. The Postmaster General will, however, see that the allowances are adequate for the services performed, and it is certainly not his intention that any part of the cost of the proposed reduction in porterage of telegrams should be paid out of the remuneration of the sub-postmasters, whose duty it is to pay the allowance whatever it may be to the person delivering the message.

BELFAST POLICE COURT CELLS.

MR. DILLON: On behalf of the hon. Member for South Down (Mr. MCCARTAN), I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the evidence of the head constable given at the coroner's inquest on Catherine Steele, who died in Belfast workhouse on the 12th instant, and to the effect that a yearly average of 10,000 prisoners pass through Belfast Police Court cells; whether he can state the greatest number of prisoners put into the largest of these cells at one time; whether he will give the dimensions of the cell and say what lavatory accommodation it contains, and if there are any restoratives provided or available in case of persons being taken ill there; whether, notwithstanding the number of female prisoners, there is no woman appointed to look after them; and whether he will consider the desirability of having some woman appointed to assist the constabulary in caring for the female prisoners?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: My attention has been directed to the evidence given by the head constable of police in the case referred to, which sets forth the facts with substantial accuracy. The dimensions of the largest of the cells are 20 feet 8 inches by 15 feet 6 inches by 11 feet. The maximum number of persons placed in this cell, at one time, was 20. It contains only one w.c., of a very defective kind, and no restoratives are provided or available for persons taken suddenly ill. There is no female attendant to look after the female prisoners, though there is a female searcher who is sent for when required, to search female prisoners. I may observe that in November, 1895, Mr. Seddall, the district inspector of police, at the request of the Lord Mayor and members of the Police Committee of the Belfast Corporation, made a written report to the Committee on the subject of the condition of the cells, and that subsequently two members of the Committee, accompanied by the Commissioners of Police, visited and inspected the police stations of a number of towns in England and Scotland. The result of that inspection was a report recommending the erection of new cells in substitution of the existing ones, which were strongly condemned. I understand that application has been made by the Corporation to the Local Government Board for a loan to enable the Corporation to proceed with the construction of new cells, and I may add that one of the proposals in connection with the new cells is that there should be one or more female attendants appointed to look after female prisoners.

MR. DILLON asked whether the right hon. Gentleman would not do something to hurry up the Corporation in this matter, as he understood that the cells had been condemned for a long time, and that the coroner's jury had severely censured the Corporation in delaying to take action?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR said that he had no power over the Corporation, but probably the asking this Question would call their attention to the subject.

ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that of the detachment of the West African Constabulary now attached to the depôt of the Royal Irish Constabulary, in the Phœnix Park, Dublin, for the purpose of instruction in

Irish police methods, the sergeants are admitted to the membership of the sergeants' mess of the Royal Irish Constabulary, while the officer is not admitted to the privileges of the Royal Irish Constabulary officers' mess; and whether, having regard to the desire for promoting unity amongst various nationalities in the British Empire, any steps will be taken to admit this gentleman to the officers' mess of the Royal Irish Constabulary?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: The sergeants of the West African Police, to whom reference is made, have access to the Royal Irish Constabulary sergeants' mess room at the depôt, though they do not take their meals there. The Assistant Superintendent of the West African detachment does not mess with the depôt officers, nor do I think, having regard to the amount of his pay, which is comparatively very small, that he would consider it a privilege to have to defray the cost of messing with the officers.

MR. MACNEILL asked whether the right hon. Gentleman was aware that this unfortunate man had to leave the depôt and to go two miles to get his dinner?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: He resides a little over a quarter of a mile from the depôt.

CHARGE OF THEFT (DUBLIN).

MR. MACNEILL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been directed to the arrest and prosecution of Mrs. Birdie Butler and Mr. James O'Dea, a graduate and scholar of Trinity College, Dublin, and to their frequent remands, bail being refused on one occasion in the case of Mr. O'Dea, on a charge which the authorities now admit to have been absolutely groundless, of stealing a bag containing money at the Limerick Junction, which Mr. O'Dea, who was travelling up to Dublin with Mrs. Butler, believed with other luggage to have belonged to that lady, but which had been left carelessly near that luggage by a bank clerk in whose charge it was; and whether, having regard to the expense, grievous personal inconvenience, and anxiety of mind to which Mr. O'Dea and Mrs. Butler have been subjected, the Government intend to take any steps to make any compensation to them?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: The accused were found in possession of this bag, of small dimensions, but weighing 35lbs., and containing a large sum in gold, under circumstances which required thorough investigation, and completely justified the action of the police. The accused parties were not put to unnecessary inconvenience, and though they have, on the full examination of the facts, been entirely exculpated, it is not a case calling for compensation by the Crown.

MR. MACNEILL asked the right hon. Gentleman if he was aware that this lady and graduate of Trinity College were kept in prison five days on this charge?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR was understood to say that he was not aware of the fact mentioned by the hon. Member.

MR. MACNEILL: I recommend them to consult a solicitor.

INDIAN RAILWAYS.

MR. ARTHUR O'CONNOR (Donegal, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India what has been the amount of charge on Indian Revenues over the receipts from railway working on State railways and on guaranteed railways in the last 10 years?

The HON. MEMBER further asked the Secretary of State for India (1) what was the original estimate of loss on the working of the Indian railway system for last year, and what is the amount of the revised estimate; (2) what is the amount of capital required for carrying out the programme of railway extension in India during each of the three years 1897, 1898, and 1899; and what will be the estimated amount of interest payable thereupon during each year of the period of construction; and (3) what are the several dates at which the contracts with the Guaranteed Indian Railway Companies, now involving loss to the State, can be terminated or modified?

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Lord GEORGE HAMILTON, Middlesex, Ealing): The State and Guaranteed Railways of India have been worked, during the ten years 1887-97, at an average profit of 5¼ per cent.; but, owing to the fall in exchange, a total net loss of Rx.7,781,914 on the State and Rx.8,679,557 on the guaranteed lines has accrued within that period. The net loss in 1896-97 was estimated at Rx.2,274,300; the revised estimate was Rx.2,810,200, but, according to the latest information in my possession, it is likely to be Rx.2,665,800. The amount of capital expenditure sanctioned for each of the three years 1896-97, 1897-98, and 1898-99 is Rx.10,174,700, Rx.10,130,000, and Rx.9,360,000 respectively; and the amount payable by way of interest in each of those years may be estimated at Rx.153,000, Rx.457,000, and Rx.750,000, against which must be set the profits to be received from such portions of the new lines as may be opened within three years. The only two contracts with guaranteed companies, which in 1895-96 involved a net loss to the State, are those with the Great Indian Peninsula and the Madras Railway Companies. They terminate on June 30, 1900, and December 31, 1907, respectively.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION ACT (1870) AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. R. B. HALDANE (Haddington): On behalf of the hon. Member for Hawick Burghs (Mr. Thomas Shaw), I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether Her Majesty's Government will be willing to grant a Return giving the names of the necessitous School Boards in Scotland which will obtain relief under the Bill now introduced into this House?

*The LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. Graham Murray, Buteshire): I have no objection to the Return asked for. It will be prepared without delay.

CAVALRY SERVICE SQUADRONS.

Major RASCH (Essex, S.E.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether, as the organisation of a cavalry corps has been altered to three service squadrons, commanded by Majors, in the event of one Major being seconded a Captain should be promoted to take his place, so that each service squadron may be commanded by a Field Officer, as in the case of batteries of artillery?

Mr. BRODRICK: Majors are not now seconded on being employed extra-regimentally. The question of seconding them, under certain circumstances, is at present under consideration.

FEVER OUTBREAK (BELMULLET UNION).

Mr. D. CRILLY (Mayo, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if his attention has been drawn to the reports of extensive fever and famine in the Belmullet Union; whether he has received any special report from the officials of the Local Government Board; and what steps, if any, the Government propose to take to meet the exceptional distress existing in the Belmullet Union?

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: The attention of the Government has been drawn to the account published in the *Freeman's Journal* of the 24th inst., respecting the state of affairs in the Union of Belmullet. This account, in which an outbreak of fever on the Inniskea Islands in this Union, is attributed to the extraordinary neglect of the Government, seems to have been written in complete ignorance of the facts, which are as follows: On the 12th May, Dr. Lavan, the Dispensary Medical Officer, reported that 16 cases of fever had occurred on the islands, and he attributed the cause of the outbreak to the islanders' habit of keeping cattle and sheep in their houses and having cesspools at their doors. The Local Government Board thereupon directed the Medical Officer to furnish weekly reports as to the progress of the sick, and as to the precautions taken to prevent the spread of the disease. On the 30th May he reported that the 16 cases were those of people in good circumstances and not fit subjects for poor relief. The Board informed him that whether they were subjects for relief or not, he should visit the houses and see that all necessaries were supplied, and that disinfection was properly carried out. On the 3rd instant Dr. Lavan reported the type of fever to be very mild, that the disease appeared to be on the decline, and that he had thoroughly disinfected the houses. During the same week he disinfected the houses a second time. On the 7th instant he reported that with the exception of a few people on the islands who were destitute, the rest were in fairly good circumstances, but that they laboured under the impression, which it was difficult to remove, that fever patients should be given nothing but cold water. The destitute were provided with all necessary nourishment and stimulants, and the services of two trained nurses from Dublin were requisitioned in addition to two local nurses. Three of the patients had died, and removal of the sick to hospital on the manlaind was out of the question. The trained nurses were landed on the 11th instant. On the 22nd instant the Medical Inspector of the Local Government Board visited the Islands, in company with Dr. Lavan. He states that there are, in all, 13 cases of fever of different kinds on the South Island, but that the North Island is free from fever. The Inspector considers that the attendance on, and nursing of the sick, have been sufficient up to the present. He also attended a meeting of the Board of Guardians, and pointed out to them that it was imperative on them to enforce measures for lime-washing, cleansing, and disinfection of all infected houses, and that the remedies must be continued until satisfactory results are attained. The Guardians recognise their responsibilities as the sanitary authority, and are taking measures to comply with the Inspector's recommendation. I am not aware of any famine on the island, nor can the outbreak of fever be attributable to any want of food.

MR. CRILLY: In view of the statement of the right hon. Gentleman, is he prepared to maintain that it is an exaggeration to say that on Monday last—that is this day week—out of the 60 families which comprise the whole population of the Island of Inniskea, which forms part of the Union of Belmullet, no less than 45 persons were lying ill with fever?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I should say that was an exaggerated statement.

IRISH LAND COMMISSION.

MR. McCARTAN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will state what was the decision given by the Irish Land Commission on the question of the Ulster custom raised before it at its recent sitting at Armagh; whether it was held to be an interest of the tenant, in addition to his interest in the improvements made by him on his holding; whether the Sub-Commissioners have in many instances expressly remarked on the "Pink Paper" that the holding was subject to the Ulster custom, but that they had made no allowance to the tenant in respect of same; whether the Ulster custom has been held to be a right of the Ulster tenant, as something in excess of the right belonging to a tenant of a holding in any other part of Ireland; whether he is aware that this custom entitled the tenant to sell his holding in the open market, even where no improvement had been made by him on the holding; and why, up to the present, no allowance by way of reduced rent has been made to the tenant in Ulster in respect of this right?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: The judgments of the Irish Land Commission in the cases referred to were delivered in open Court, and have been extensively published in the Irish newspapers. These judgments are as accessible to the hon. Member as they are to me, and it is not for me to place an interpretation upon them. The matters to which this Question refers are the subject of an appeal, and pending the result of this appeal it is obviously undesirable that the operation of the judgments of the Commissioners should be discussed by way of Questions across the Table of the House.

ILLEGAL TRAWLING (SCOTTISH WATERS).

MR. T. C. H. HEDDERWICK (Wick Burghs): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty (1) whether the gunboat *Redwing* and the cutter *Active* are the only Government vessels at present protecting the fisheries of Orkney and Shetland from illegal trawilng; and (2) whether the average rate of speed at which the *Redwing* can steam exceeds nine knots an hour?

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The answer to the first paragraph is yes. I believe that the speed of the *Redwing* is correctly stated, but I have not had time to ascertain the exact figure.

SUPPLY (IRISH EDUCATION VOTES).

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury when the Irish Education Estimates will be taken?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: I understand it will be convenient to gentlemen from Ireland that the Irish Estimates should be taken on Friday next, and I propose to make that arrangement.

SLAVERY IN ZANZIBAR.

*SIR C. DILKE: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, in reference to his statement made on Friday night as to "authorisation issued by the British Administrator at Mombasa with reference to the restoration of fugitive slaves"—which "documents," he said,

> "were entirely new to Her Majesty's Government. We were quite unaware of their existence. We have never seen them—"

whether Questions were put to Her Majesty's Government on May 28 in which these "formal documents," were described as "habitually issued" by

> "Her Majesty's representatives" "giving to the bearers permission to . . . . search for slaves, on which permits they have levied a fee";

whether it was further stated to the Government on May 28 that

> "runaway slaves, fetched by soldiers in British employ, as wanted by the Commissioner, with letters registered by the Commissioner, have been taken before British Courts for proof of ownership, and after proof, handed over to their masters";

whether it was also stated on the same day, in a Question by myself, that

> "British subjects had been compelled to surrender fugitive slaves by the British authorities, and had, in fact, surrendered great numbers of such slaves."

MR. CURZON: The answer to all the statements in the Question of the right hon. Baronet as to the contents of certain questions that have been put in this House is in the affirmative, and the explanation is as follows:—The documents to which the right hon. Member for Honiton alluded in his Question of May 28 were believed in the Foreign Office to relate to the process which I described in my speech of Thursday last and which, as I stated in the House on May 28, was in operation on the mainland until December last, when fresh instructions were sent to the British Administrator not to employ force and to exercise his discretion in each case as it occurred. The Government have never seen the actual documents which were before that date in use, and were not at the time that the Question of the right hon. Baronet appeared upon the Paper aware that there was anything in them that might be of an illegal character. Since then the documents have been produced and read in the House, though I have not yet been furnished with any copies of them; and the Attorney General, who also has not seen them, has given an opinion that if they authorise the detention of slaves by British subjects, even on foreign territory, that is not in accordance with the law. ["Hear, hear!"] Under these circumstances instructions have been sent by telegraph to Her Majesty's Commissioner at Mombasa informing him that a British subject is breaking the law if he takes part in restoring to his master or otherwise depriving of his liberty any fugitive slave, and instructing him to conform his conduct to the law thus laid down. ["Hear, hear!"]

MR. J. A. PEASE (Northumberland, Tyneside): May I inform the House that I am prepared to hand over the documents in the course of the afternoon?

MR. CURZON: I am much obliged to the hon. Gentleman.

*SIR C. DILKE: Is it not the case that the hon. Gentleman who has just made that statement asked a Question of the Attorney General, to which the hon. and learned Gentleman replied that he had not seen the documents, upon which the hon. Gentleman produced them?

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Sir RICHARD WEBSTER, Isle of Wight): The documents have never been shown to me either directly or indirectly. I never knew of their contents until they were read by the hon. and learned Member for Dumfries on Thursday night.

*SIR C. DILKE: I personally informed Members of the Government six weeks ago that these documents were at their disposal.

CRETE.

Mr. MACNEILL: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether it is the fact that, on June 26, Mussulmans to the number of 1,200 made a sortie from the town of Candia and surprised the Christian insurgents at Kanli Kastelli, when a desperate combat ensued, entailing serious loss of life; whether it is the fact that, on June 26, the Turkish troops attacked Kanli Kastelli and massacred the garrison, and then entered the village of Rocca, where they murdered nine men; and what steps have been taken by the Great Powers for the preservation of life and property in peace now that the Greek forces have been withdrawn?

Mr. CURZON: The following telegrams have been received from Sir Herbert Chermside:—

"June 26.—Grazing question has developed incidents on June 22 at Aitania, and on 24th near Voutes with mutual losses. On 24th Governor owing to administrative difficulties informed the rationed irregulars rations must cease. On 25th Christians laid ambuscade near Turkish outpost Ghazi on west, killed three Moslems, wounded three, carried off lad and over 20 beasts. Another Christian ambuscade near Spelea was unsuccessful. These incidents precipitated a Moslem raid on Kanli Kastelli, 11 miles south, a mixed village with a Moslem majority, now in the hands of the Christians with Moslem houses destroyed, it is alleged. Cavalry orderlies were sent last night to the outposts, nevertheless a considerable raid occurred, accompanied by burning, fighting, and cattle-lifting. The Moslem loss was over ten killed. Total casualties not ascertained. It is alleged that seven Christian guards were killed; that others were killed in village and 17 houses burnt; cannot yet confirm." "June 28.—The bulk of the property around Kanli Kastelli is Moslem. Total houses in village 70, of which some 20 Moslem. These, with mosque, had been previously destroyed. Moslem losses, 14 killed and 16 wounded. Raiders believed to have numbered over 200."

In consequence of these disturbances, Colonel Chermside made recommendations as to the measures to be taken by the local authorities to check raiding in future.

DESTRUCTION OF CROPS (ESSEX).

Major RASCH: I desire to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, in consequence of the almost total destruction of every kind of crop over an area of seven miles in the county of Essex last Thursday, the Government are prepared to send down a Commissioner to advise as to the necessity of some measures of exceptional relief?

The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY: I received my hon. Friend's notice of this Question only after I came into the House, and, of course, I am not prepared to give him an answer upon the very tragic state of circumstances which his Question reveals to the House. If he will put a Question to the President of the Board of Agriculture either tomorrow or on Thursday, the matter will before then have come under the consideration of the Government.

PUBLIC HEALTH (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Dr. FARQUHARSON (Aberdeenshire, W.) asked the First Lord of the Treasury when he intended to take the Public Health (Scotland) Bill?

The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY replied it would not be taken that night, nor was he in a position to fix a date on which it could be taken. On Monday next the Report stage of the Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill would be considered.

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

METROPOLITAN WATER COMPANIES BILL.

The PRESIDENT of the LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. Henry Chaplin, Lincolnshire, Sleaford) moved the Second Reading of this Bill.

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON (Tower Hamlets, Poplar) characterised the Measure as a miserable little Bill, which had been introduced by the Government in fulfilment of the much larger promise made by them to the House, and especially to the London Members. The right hon. Gentleman who introduced it said it would strengthen and improve the position of the water consumers and give adequate redress to those who were suffering from the water companies. What London wanted, however, was a supply of water rather than a redress of grievances. The main grievance was that under certain circumstances and conditions there had been a failure on the part of certain companies to give a proper and constant supply of water in many parts of London. In regard to the administration of the companies they had no unity, no control, and therefore no popular authority. The fact was the interests of the consumer and the shareholder were antagonistic. Not one of these matters was incidentally touched on by the Bill, which the President of the Local Government Board said would remedy the grievances of the water consumers. What was wanted while the Royal Commission was reporting was a more expeditious, inexpensive, and decisive mode of obtaining redress of individual grievances. In order to obtain the redress of minor grievances the only means the consumer had were either to go to a magistrate or appeal to the Local Government Board, and it was now proposed to add a further tribunal to give the consumer a better opportunity. But he doubted whether the tribunal selected would be of great advantage to the consumer. He doubted whether it would be more expeditious; it would be more cumbersome, and unquestionably it would be more expensive, and it would play largely into the hands of the water companies. If, under the Bill, the local authority could adopt the position of the individual it would be an advantage, but if, in the poorer parts of London, where the local rates were heavy, and the local authorities went to law, the cost would come out of the ratepayers' and consumers' pockets. If the local authorities were to be brought in they should have a measure of control and some power of carrying out their wishes. The fault he found with the Bill generally was that it would add a tribunal which would be expensive, slow, and cumbersome, and which would be scarcely used by individuals or local authorities. He would not oppose the Second Reading of the Bill, but he expressed his regret that the Government, in dealing with the water companies, had put aside the question of purchase and popular control by the appointment of a Royal Commission, and had proposed an additional tribunal with no positive reform in the existing law, which should be more in favour of the consumer and against a monopoly.

Mr. E. H. PICKERSGILL (Bethnal Green, S.W.) remarked that the First Lord of the Treasury had said the Session ought not to pass without a solution of the question being arrived at. No one could say that the Bill was a solution of the question or anything like it. The real mischief of the position was that Parliament had conferred exorbitant powers upon the London Water Companies without imposing upon them corresponding obligations. The Bill neither restricted those powers nor enlarged those obligations. All that it attempted to do was to provide another tribunal for determining what the rights of the water consumer were, and enabled certain local authorities to bring complaints or assist the private individual to obtain the decision of any question relating to water supply of general interest. This Bill was at best only a Bill dealing with procedure, and it left the substantial rights of the water companies precisely where they were. Contracts between the water companies and the consumer were outside the purview of the Bill. They ought not to be, because in many cases the consumer was compelled to enter into a contract with the company, and the company with its vast resources on the one hand and the consumer on the other were not on equal terms. The Bill should deal with unreasonable contracts as well as the failure to perform a statutory duty. Any local authority might itself complain. It must not be lost sight of that at present there were two local authorities which could complain, any Metropolitan water authority had at present the power of complaining, and the water authorities were the City Corporation and the London County Council. No doubt during recent years it would have been competent to the London County Council to complain, but as he understood the London County Council was advised that it would not be worth while to take proceedings and to sue for penalties provided by the Act. By this Bill, however, he understood the Commission would have power to enforce its own orders. How it would be able to enforce its order, and whether in practice it would be found to be effective was of course a matter which only the future could decide. Then, with regard to the power to complain of the quantity or quality of the water, the Bill only provided an additional tribunal. As the law at present stood it was open to some 20 householders to approach the Local Government Board, if they wished to complain of the quantity or quality of the water, and the Board might make an inquiry, and the Metropolitan authority might then sue. The only real change which was made by the Bill in this respect was to set up as a new authority, the Railway and Canal Commission. He was afraid that Commission as a body had not so far established itself very firmly in the confidence of the public—[" hear, hear ! "]—and he was not sure that the ratepayers of London would be satisfied with the proposal. He would like to say a good word for Clause 2 of the Bill, because he thought the ratepayers would hear with considerable satisfaction that power was to be given to a local authority to aid financially a water consumer who was fighting a case in the interests of the public. He noticed that the directors of the water companies disliked this clause very much, and therefore he was sure it was calculated to do good. The Bill did not in any way affect the subtantive rights of the companies, and the consumers of London would be bitterly disappointed if two provisions were not included. In the first place, they thought it a very hard and indefensible thing that they should have to pay for water which they did not receive, and he hoped the Government would insert a proviso to the effect that if a water company did not supply water, from whatever cause the failure might arise, it should not be entitled to payment. The second point was in regard to the practice of cutting off the supply, which had been a matter of frequent complaint. When a company cut off the supply there was the additional grievance that it charged an exorbitant sum for reconnecting the supply, and, moreover, a dwelling-house without water was by the Public Health Act, 1891, a nuisance which was liable to be dealt with summarily. It was monstrous that a water company should be empowered to cut off the water supply if the consumer did not pay his quarterly water rate in advance on the very day. He hoped the Government would introduce a provision which would relieve the unwary consumer of water of this disadvantage.

Sir JOHN LUBBOCK (London University) said that the two hon. Members who had endeavoured to disparage this Bill did not represent the general opinion of London Members. The Bill did not profess to deal with the whole subject, but so far as it went it was a valuable Measure, and even the hon. Members who had spoken did not deny that it contained useful provisions. It was no small merit of the Bill that there was a general consensus that what was in the Bill was good, though the opponents wished to introduce additional provisions. It was said that the East End was in favour of purchase, but surely that was a question of price. If the water companies had been bought up, under the arrangement made some years ago by Mr. Smith, the shareholders would have had £1,100,000 in dividends more than they had actually received. He hoped that the Royal Commission would lose no time in making their Report. The hon. Member for Poplar said that the great grievance was the failure of supply which had taken place in East London, but that was due to the action of hon. Gentlemen opposite. Mr. Burdett, who spoke with such high authority, had stated—he believed with truth—that the tendency of opinion amongst those who had studied the question was in favour of control rather than of purchase. It would be found ultimately that the Government, by appointing the Commission and introducing this Bill had taken the wisest course in the interest of the ratepayers of the Metropolis and the solving of the problem of the water supply of London.

Mr. LIONEL HOLLAND (Tower Hamlets, Bow and Bromley) thought the Bill a perfectly harmless Measure. If it brought but little benefit to the consumers it, at any rate, left their rights, such as they were, undisturbed. But the Bill would cease to be harmless, if it were to be considered for one moment to be in any way a fulfilment of the announcement contained in the Queen's Speech; if it were to be taken in any way as a satisfaction of the demand of the consumers for a more regular and a more efficient supply; if it were to be adduced as an argument for not bringing forward legislation as soon as possible for the removal of the inequalities and irregularities of the present system; or if it were to be considered as a step towards the establishment of a policy of control. He understood from the speech of the President of the Local Government Board in introduction of the Bill, that the Government considered it a temporary Measure. But the Member for London University put a somewhat different interpretation on the Bill. The right hon. Gentleman regarded it as the first step towards a policy of control. But the Bill did not deal with any of the disadvantages or anomalies of the present system of supply, such as the power of the companies to raise their toll on a house as the rateable value went up, although they did not supply a single additional gallon of water, and were not put to a shilling of additional expense, and to compel the consumer to pay for water whether he received it or not. He need not go through the anomalies of the present system of supply. They were made manifest by the Reports of the innumerable Committees and Commissions which had sat to investigate the question. Not one of those inequalities or anomalies was even touched upon in the present Bill, and therefore if it were to be considered a bar to future legislation when the Commission reported, or as the first step in the policy of control, it would become a very harmful Bill. He accepted the Bill simply and purely as an Amendment to procedure, and he trusted that when the Commission reported there would be no delay in bringing in legislation, now long overdue, for permanently settling the problem of the water supply of London.

MR. T. LOUGH (Islington, W.) said that he was afraid the Government would be known in history as the Government which had excited great hopes by the subjects which it had named to be dealt with, and the greatest disappointment by its manner of handling those subjects. The Government did not seem able to get away from this metropolitan water question. They began by causing the County Council Bills to be defeated, then they introduced a Water Trust Bill, and the question appeared in the Queen's Speech. And now, in fulfilment of all this promise, this miserable Bill was introduced. He could not see what benefit the inhabitants of London were to derive from the interference of the Railway Commissioners in the Water Question. What had the Commissioners done? They were one of the standing jokes of the Estimates. But the Water Question was urgent, as the conduct of the Government and the sufferings of the people of the Metropolis showed. Last year there was a famine in the East of London, and this year there had been one in the South, and these famines would frequently recur under the present system. The attitude of the companies—who in the last few years had come to Parliament to ask for power to raise nine millions of money—showed that they recognised how inadequate the present arrangements were. Purchase on a broad and fair basis to the owners of property was the best way of solving this Question; and he hoped that the present Bill would not be accepted as a substitute for that great policy. As to the Bill, there was nothing in it.

MR. EDWARD BOULNOIS (Marylebone, E.) said that he did not oppose the Second Reading of the Bill; but as it had been introduced as a public Bill the water companies lost their opportunity of being heard on the various points raised. The companies had no need to fear any investigation. They had endeavoured to carry out the statutory obligations in the past, and if they did not do so in the future they were willing that the consumer should have a Court before which he could lay his complaint. At the same time, the provision allowing the local authority to aid the consumer out of the rates in carrying his complaint before the Courts required very serious consideration. The companies disliked that provision, because they thought it would lead to frivolous complaints being brought before the Courts. It was, in effect, the doctrine of maintenance, and why should it be applied to the water companies only, and not to the railway and gas companies, and perhaps to the London General Omnibus Company? He would suggest the insertion of a safeguard, requiring the local authority to obtain the sanction of the Local Government Board or of the Attorney General. Clause 3 would require careful consideration. The consumer in the outside areas would be put to considerable expense in altering his fittings for a constant supply. He should suggest certain amendments in Committee, and, as they would not interfere with the principle of the Bill, he hoped they would be favourably received.

Mr. CHAPLIN said that it was hardly accurate to describe the Bill as having been introduced in fulfilment of the promises of the Government last year. It was introduced in fulfilment of a promise which he gave at the beginning of the Session. The Leader of the House had in a letter expressed the strong desire of the Government to arrive at some solution of this question at the earliest opportunity, and the Government had done what was wisest and best for that end. They had appointed a Royal Commission to inquire into a number of important subjects intimately connected with this Question which had never been thoroughly thrashed out, and, in addition, they had introduced this Bill as a more or less temporary measure pending the Report of the Commission. An hon. Member had charged him with having spoken of this Bill in the most grandiloquent terms on its introduction. What he actually said was that it was "a simple and modest Bill" and a "very short one." He added:—

> "The new powers and duties which we are conferring upon the local authorities must not be underrated, because, in my opinion, they are very considerable."

To that opinion he still took the liberty of adhering. Some hon. Members had done their best to disparage the Measure, but he supposed that was only an assertion of their position sitting in opposition. Even they, however, were compelled to admit that there was, at all events, some good in the Bill, and the Government had no reason whatever to complain of the general reception it had met with in the House. ["Hear, hear!"] But the Bill did a good deal more than appeared on the surface. It was no small matter to bring in all the local authorities and to give them power to initiate complaints without waiting for the initiative of individual consumers. It was said this power was not new, but whereas 20 complaints were now required before the Local Government Board could take notice of it, under the Bill a complaint could be made by any single individual. Very often, he thought, the water companies had been unfairly attacked, and he would give an instance. It was alleged that the Lambeth Water Company had seized the opportunity of the Jubilee to cut off the supply of the people. As soon as information reached him that there was difficulty in that quarter, he made it his business to inquire at once, and, so far as he had any knowledge of the subject, he was at a loss to conceive how the difficulty could have been avoided, no matter in whose hands the control of the water was. What occurred was this. There was an extraordinary and quite abnormal invasion of fish-spawn in the river. This was always a difficulty, he understood, which arose every year more or less during June, but this year it was quite exceptional. The previous cold weather was supposed to have delayed the spawn. Then came two days of extreme heat, and this was followed by the abnormal invasion of spawn which blocked the filters, and quite prohibited any further supply of filtered water until the spawn had been removed from the filter beds. Even with a large staff of men this work took some time, and that, he believed, was the reason of the dearth of water which occurred only a few days ago. Where the companies did their duty the Bill would be inoperative; where they did not, they would have a formidable body of local authorities always ready to bring them to task, and fight them for any transgression of which they might have been guilty on perfectly even terms. The position, therefore, would be very different from that of the unfortunate individual consumer in the past. As to the suggestion that individuals would have difficulty in persuading the local authorities to act, he doubted it very much. Did the hon. Member opposite, who had some experience of the London County Council, think it would be very hard, when a legitimate opportunity arose, to persuade that body to take action against the metropolitan water companies, for whom they had no very great affection and with whom they had a good many outstanding quarrels? With regard to suggested amendments, from whatever quarter of the House, he could only say that the Government were prefectly prepared to give them, one and all, the most careful consideration.

Mr. JAMES STUART (Shoreditch, Hoxton) desired information on two points—first, the sort of cases in which the promoters thought the Bill would be applicable; and secondly, the nature of the new tribunal. The utility of the tribunal would depend largely on whether it was an expensive one or not. It had been alleged that the Railway Commission was an extremely expensive body. [The ATTORNEY GENERAL: "No!"] That should be denied, for it was clear it would be a very serious thing for either an individual consumer or a local authority to appear before a body where very large counsels' fees might be paid by the water companies and the costs ultimately thrown on the complainants. The right hon. Gentleman, with a courtesy which they all recognised, endeavoured to make out that the promises made by the Government were not involved in the Bill at all. He altogether denied that what the Government had done in connection with the Royal Commission—which was the only thing they had done except to throw out the late Water Purchase Bills—was in any sense a fulfilment of what all sides must have been led to expect. He held in his hand an extract from the letter of the Conservative Member for East London, addressed last August to the First Lord of the Treasury, and in his reply the right hon. Gentleman, speaking on behalf of the Government, said, "We strongly feel that next Session ought not to pass without a solution being arrived at." There was nothing about "a step towards a solution;" it was "without a solution being arrived at." When the right hon. Gentleman made that statement in the letter it was very generally received with approval, and accepted as an indication that the Government had risen to the occasion and recognised their duty, seeing that the danger was not to be avoided by any other means, and the whole question of London water supply was urgent and ought to be dealt with without delay. In the Queen's Speech at the opening of the Session there was a paragraph to the effect that a Bill would be submitted to the House for improving the arrangements for the water supply of the Metropolis, and he asked was this the promised Bill, or should they look for another Bill. Was the Bill now introduced the fulfilment of the promise or not? If it was not, then where was the Bill and why had it been suspended? Had the Government altered their minds since they prepared the Queen's Speech? Or if this was the Bill indicated, where had the right hon. Gentleman's argument vanished to? Was the present Bill a mere emanation from the right hon. Gentleman's speech on the London County Council Bills? Was it a fulfilment of the promise in the Queen's Speech? These were questions he would like to have answered? As to this Bill, he certainly should not oppose it. It was a Bill that was neither here nor there;" it was a slight, small, unimportant Measure, and nobody would long to make it anything else. The position seemed to be this, that the Bill was an essential part of the Government promise, but they could not go further just now, for they had tied their own hands, and it was just this position into which the Government had brought themselves of which he complained. Let the House look at the situation. For many years there had been a series of Committees and Commissions on this London water question, and all undoubtedly pointed in one direction, purchase by some municipal authority until there was the famous and all-important Committee of 1891, presided over by the present Home Secretary. It was a strong Committee, and it investigated the whole of the question from the point of view of joint management, from the point of view of constituting a new authority, from the point of view of simple purchase, and the Committee recommended that the London County Council should be empowered, or practically obliged, for that was what it came to, to consider the whole question and bring in a Measure for constituting a water authority, and if it should constitute itself a water authority, or propose to do so in this Measure, it was bound to purchase the water companies by arbitration. The Council brought in a Bill to carry this out, and the Government opposed that Bill. They were last year under the glamour of some idea that they could do something other than that Sir Matthew White Ridley's Committee recommended. They still believed that some middle course was possible, but there were some Members on the other side of the House who saw better than the Government, and knew this could not be so. This year, when the Government had to face the question straightly, instead of trying to find a middle course, they were obliged to arrange a Commission, which Commission should enter into the very things Sir M. W. Ridley's Committee reported upon. The Government had landed themselves in an impassable position; they could not get out of that position, and they appointed a Commission to consider the whole thing over again when it was ripe for solution. So they had tied their hands, and could not do anything but bring in this exceedingly small, unimportant Measure. He could not accept the right hon. Gentleman's history of how the Bill came to be introduced, when he said it arose out of his pledge given when he was calling upon the House to throw out the London County Council's Water Purchase Bills. The First Lord of the Treasury said the Session ought not to pass without a solution of this question being arrived at, and the Queen's Speech contained a promise of a Bill to improve the arrangements of the water supply of the Metropolis. Was this Measure a fulfilment of that promise, or was it not?

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Sir RICHARD WEBSTER, Isle of Wight) did not rise to follow the hon. Gentleman's survey of the question and the comments on various topics he had introduced into his speech, but to answer specific questions as to the cases which, as he conceived, would be dealt with by the Bill. At the present time, of course, proceedings could be undertaken by twenty water consumers, and by application to a magistrate, to enforce what he might call the minor duties of water companies; but there was not any ready tribunal for dealing with greater questions. If hon. Members would look at the second sub-section of the first clause it would be seen that it was contemplated that such questions as the quantity and quality of water supplied, and of a constant supply, should be dealt with by the Railway Commission. Those who had studied the subject would agree that a magistrate, or even an arbitrator, except under special circumstances, were not the best tribunals for the settlement of such questions as these. Hon. Members had spoken of the great expense of proceedings before the Railway Commission, but they had been led into exaggeration on this point, and their statements were absolutely contradicted by cases within his experience. There was a safeguard in the Bill which was excluded from the Act of 1888, that all costs would be within the discretion of the tribunal, and everybody would know perfectly well that if the Commission found there was good foundation for the complaint they would throw the whole cost of proceedings on the Company. Under the present law there was no practical means of raising such questions as the quantity and quality of water, or of adequate supply, except by proceedings for mandamus in the High Court, and it would not be suggested that this procedure would be less costly. He did not wish to repeat what his right hon. Friend had said. For serious causes of complaint the Bill offered a remedy, and as such he asked the House to give the Bill a Second Reading.

MR. JOHN LOWLES (Shoreditch, Haggerston) said though he, in common with other London Members, would have liked a more comprehensive dealing with the subject, he had come to the conclusion that it was wiser to have an inquiry by a Commission of experts, because the question, after exhaustive inquiry, might be settled once for all. He did not minimise the importance of the present Measure, and it would be assessed at its proper value by those who had felt the effects of the water famine. It gave individual consumers an opportunity to set in motion power of inquiry into the shortcomings of water companies. The whole question of water supply fully deserved serious consideration, and East End Members felt this strongly; but the feeling would be general that the Government had acted wisely in trying to settle the question conclusively by means of an Inquiry by a Commission of experts. Meantime he regarded this means by which individual consumers would be able to set in motion power to compel water companies to fulfil their obligations as exceedingly useful. It would have a preventive effect, the knowledge of such a power would stimulate the anxiety of companies to meet the requirements of consumers.

LORD HUGH CECIL (Greenwich) said there was an advantage in the proposed mode of procedure over the method of expropriation which had so many advocates on the other side of the House. Directly they entered on the question of expropriation they involved all questions of interference with rights of property, necessitating the utmost possible caution against raising the opposition not only of those whose property was immediately interfered with, but of those who might think their turn would come next, and who would therefore join hands in resisting the proposal. Moreover, the dislike of expropriation was intensified by mistrust of the London County Council, and a reluctance to do anything that would throw the administration of the whole of the London water supply into its hands. It was, he thought, a difficulty which was likely to occur over and over again in the municipal government of London that the extraordinary want of tact which had marked the County Council's manœuvres had created a prejudice against it which would go far to destroy any advantages which might have been expected from a great popular institution like that. So long as it went on masquerading as London's Parliament, so long as it was inflated by the spirit that animated *The Daily Chronicle*, so long would it be found that Parliament, and many persons outside Parliament, were extremely reluctant to increase, in any respect whatever, the authority intrusted to the County Council. If they would be more wisely guided, if they would adopt an attitude of greater humility —[*Opposition laughter*]—and would be content to be only the first municipal corporation of the country, then, certainly, it would be possible to extend very largely their powers with a just confidence that those powers would be wisely used. An advantage of proceeding by the method of control was that they controlled the companies and they compelled them to do their duty. No question of property would arise; no question of whether a new authority was to be constituted which might be distrusted, as was the case with the County Council. They had the simple method of compelling the existing authority to do its duty, and therefore he, for his part, was very glad indeed that the Government had seen fit to adopt the method of control rather than some more ambitious kind. He hoped that when this Bill was passed, there would be no reluctance whatever to use its provisions and compel the water companies at all times to do their duty. ["Hear, hear!"] There was one power which he thought might have been added to the Bill, and which, perhaps, the Government would consider when they came to the Committee stage. This was the granting to the Railway and Canal Commission the power to deal with the question of water rates in so many cases as the water had been defectively supplied, whether in point of quality or quantity. Nothing had struck people as more conspicuously unfair and unreasonable in connection with the water companies than their action in exacting the full measure of their rates when, through frost or drought, they had been unable to supply the full measure of water. It would be an advantage if a clause could be inserted in the Bill which would enable the Commission to make an order for diminished water rates in proportion to the diminution that had taken place in the quantity of water supplied. He thought that would be an eminently fair regulation, and would give a sensible relief to the aggrieved water consumer, and it would act as a kind of automatic penalty of which the water companies would be afraid, and which they would take the utmost trouble to escape. It would become more desirable, in the Committee stage, to investigate somewhat more at length the question whether the tribunal to which these powers were to be intrusted was nearly so expensive as had been suggested by the hon. Member for Shoreditch, but, as he was glad to hear, the Attorney General denied. If it was the fact that it was an expensive tribunal, it would surely seem that the expense must arise from some cause which could be regulated, and which might, therefore, form the subject for amendment in this Bill. A clause might be inserted similar to the one in the Clergy Discipline Act of 1892, under which a small judicial committee were given power to make rules so that they might reduce the expense and facilitate the process of litigation as much as possible. Some amendments of the kind he had indicated would, he thought, improve the Bill, but he was convinced that he was only reflecting the opinion of his constituents when he said that the great majority of those who had complained, and very reasonably complained, of the action of the water companies in the past would feel the Government had taken a great step towards removing their grievances in introducing a Measure which would establish effective control over these companies.

Bill read a Second time, and committed for Thursday.

CONGESTED DISTRICTS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Committee deferred till To-morrow.

FOREIGN PRISON-MADE GOODS BILL.

Order read, for resuming Adjourned Debate on Question [17th May], "That the Bill be committed to the Standing Committee on Trade, Etc." Debate resumed.

MR. J. H. DALZIEL (Kirkcaldy Burghs) opposed the Motion on the ground that it was a departure from what had been the settled practice of the House for many years. The First Lord of the Treasury had been the greatest champion in the House of the principle that controversial Bills should be kept within the area of the House itself, and should not be committed to Standing Committees upstairs. He thought no one would deny that this was a controversial Bill, and therefore it should be kept within the scope of the House itself. There was another reason why this Bill should be kept within the scope of the House. This Bill represented one of the great social Measures which the Government placed before the country at the last General Election, and in view of the importance thus given to the matter, the constituents ought to be in the position to see exactly how the proposal was received by the House, and to have the opportunity of considering the merits of the various Amendments that might be moved from different sides of the House. Then, again, the period of the Session at which they had arrived told strongly in favour of keeping the Bill in the House. They were now practically at the beginning of July, and in view of the work which the Grand Committee had already transacted, and of the very important Bills that were still waiting for its consideration, he thought this Bill ought to be dealt with by the House itself. They had had no reason given for sending the Bill upstairs, and as they were not too busily employed there they ought to keep it in the House.

MR. R. B. HALDANE (Haddington) said he found himself in agreement with his hon. Friend on this matter. On this Bill there arose a question which, though a matter for Committee, was one of such great importance that he did not think it could be adequately discussed except in Committee of the whole House. This Bill proposed to shut out goods produced in foreign prisons under whatever conditions they were produced. If they were produced and put on the market, not at a low price, but at the full market price, then they were to be shut out just as though they were put on the market and competed for at a low price and under conditions which would interfere with other producers. That was a question that affected them very closely in this country. Those of them who had taken an interest in prison reform—and he was a member of the Committee which reported upon this subject—felt most strongly that they would never adequately improve the prisons unless they offered opportunities for the men sent there to practise at a trade, acquiring habits of industry, and leaving the prison better men than they went in. This was a subject in which there had been difficulties with the trades unions in days gone by. What they had said was that these goods were put on the markets at low rates and under conditions—

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member is discussing the merits of the Bill itself to an extent beyond what is admissible under this Motion.

MR. HALDANE said he had transgressed unwittingly. He was referring to this by way of illustration of the fact that there would arise in the Committee stage the very important question whether the Bill should apply so as to shut out goods, under all circumstances, that were produced in foreign prisons. If it did, it would be to put an immense difficulty in the way of those who had the cause of reform in British prisons at heart. He would therefore join in the appeal of his hon. Friend to the Government that they would take this Bill under circumstances when they could examine this question fully.

Mr. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis) joined in the appeal which had been made to the Government to leave the Bill in the hands of the House. This was a controversial Measure, and one, moreover, which involved very great and important principles; it would result in a form of protection—he did not say it would be mischievous—and entail the adoption of completely new methods. In future the Board of Customs would have to go into the origin of a thing, and instead of being Commissioners of Customs they would be a sort of prize court. It was a tremendous alteration, one so large that no Committee upstairs ought to be empowered to consider it and decide upon it, but it certainly ought to be left to the House as a whole. He had no confidence whatever in the Standing Committees upstairs, and he for one would hesitate to leave it in the power of a Committee upstairs to say whether the very important new principles contained in the Measure should or should not be applied. The Standing Committees were originally intended to deal with matters of secondary importance and of great complication and detail. They never were supposed to be bodies to whom the House should hand over the settlement of great principles. This Bill was essentially one of principle, and therefore it ought to be committed to a Committee of the whole House.

The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY said he was not sure he entirely concurred in the description of the Bill which had just been given by his hon. Friend. The hon. Member had used very strong adjectives in describing the enormous magnitude and importance of the principles which, in his view, were involved in the single clause of which the Bill consisted. He thought his hon. Friend had rather over-magnified the novelty of the departure the Bill constituted, and, if this were the occasion on which to argue the doctrine the hon. Gentleman had laid down, he believed he would be able to show the hon. Member had somewhat inflated the importance of the problems the Bill raised. In suggesting that the Bill should go to a Grand Committee, the Government had no desire to in any way violate the principles which had been laid down by successive occupants of the place from which he was now speaking with regard to the functions and duties which should be thrown on Grand Committees. He thought the hon. Gentleman who initiated the Debate went rather beyond the mark when he said that this was a Bill which divided Parties, and he was also of opinion that the hon. and learned Member for Haddingtonshire had slightly exaggerated the bearing of the Measure. But he frankly admitted that when three Gentlemen from different parts of the House brought forward different sets of arguments which appealed to them and all of which converged upon the one conclusion—that the Bill was not of a character that ought to go to a Grand Committee—he did not know that there was anything in the condition of the business of the House which should require the Government with undue obstinacy to adhere to their suggestion. ["Hear, hear!"] As there appeared to be a general feeling that the House themselves would prefer to discuss the Bill in Committee, and as they might hope the discussion in Committee would not be of a very prolonged character, he would be glad to assent to the committal of the Bill to a Committee of the whole House. [*Cheers.*]

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY moved that the Bill be put down for Committee to-morrow.

Mr. DALZIEL hoped it was not intended that the Committee should be taken to-morrow.

The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY: It shall not be the principal business to-morrow, but the second Order.

Mr. DALZIEL pointed out that no Amendments had been drafted with a view to going into Committee to-morrow.

The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY thereupon named Thursday for the Committee stage.

Bill committed to a Committee of the whole House for Thursday.

BERRIEW SCHOOL BILL.

Adjourned Debate on Third Reading [24th May] further adjourned till To-morrow.

POLICE (PROPERTY) BILL.

Considered in Committee.

[MR. ARTHUR O'CONNOR in the Chair.]

Clause 1,—

POWER TO MAKE ORDERS WITH RESPECT TO PROPERTY IN POSSESSION OF POLICE.

(1.) Where any property has come into the possession of the police in connection with any criminal charge or under Section sixty-six of the Metropolitan Police Act, 1839, Section forty-eight of the Act of the Session of the second and third years of Her present Majesty, chapter ninety-four (local), for regulating the Police in the City of London, or Section one hundred and three of the Larceny Act, 1861, or Section thirty-four of the Pawnbrokers Act, 1872, a metropolitan police magistrate sitting at Bow Street within the metropolitan police district and a court of summary jurisdiction elsewhere may, on application either by an officer of police or by a claimant of the property, make an order for the delivery of the property to the person appearing to the magistrate or court to be the owner thereof, or, if the owner cannot be ascertained, make such order with respect to the property as to the magistrate or court may seem meet.

(2.) An order under this section shall not affect the right of any person to take within six months from the date of the order legal proceedings against any person in possession of property delivered by virtue of the order for the recovery of the property, but on the expiration of those six months the right shall cease.

MR. PICKERSGILL moved to omit from Sub-section 1, the words "sitting at Bow Street." He said that the object of the Bill was to give power to decide the right of possession to property in the hands of the police, and against that he had nothing to say. There was, however, to be only one Court within the Metropolitan Police area having jurisdiction under the Bill. That would be inconvenient and wrong from the point of view of policy. It would be obviously inconvenient for a complainant living, say, 20 miles from Charing Cross, to come to Bow Street to establish his right to the possession of property. From the point of view of policy, if they gave jurisdiction to one magistrate only the inevitable effect would be that that magistrate would have to take an official or a stereotyped view of the matter. If his Amendment were adopted any magistrate sitting in the Metropolis would have jurisdiction under the Bill.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY, Lancashire, Blackpool) said he had no doubt the words "sitting at Bow Street" were put in with some object, but as there appeared to be reason in the Amendment he would accept it subject to revision on Report.

Amendment agreed to; Bill reported; as amended, to be considered To-morrow.

ISLE OF MAN (CHURCH BUILDING ACTS) BILL [H L.]

Order for Second Reading Read.

Motion made, and Question put, "That the Bill be now Read a Second time." The House divided:—Ayes, 52; Noes, 65. —(Division List—No. 249—appended.)

AYES.

Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Rt. Hn Gerald W (Leeds)
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Bethell, Captain
Bonsor, Henry Cosmo Orme
Bowles, T. Gibson (King's Lynn)
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Caldwell, James
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cecil, Lord Hugh
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r)
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Currie, Sir Donald
Davies, Horatio D. (Chatham)
Douglas, Rt. Hn. A. Akers-
Drucker, A.
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J (Manc'r)
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Gorst, Rt. Hn. Sir John Eldon
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord Geo.
Hanbury, Rt. Hn. Robert Wm.
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Helder, Augustus
Holland, Hon. Lionel Raleigh
Hopkinson, Alfred
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverp'l.)
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Llewellyn, Evan H. (Somerset)
Lorne, Marquess of
Lowles, John
Maxwell, Sir Herbert E.
Nicholson, William Graham
Purvis, Robert
Ridley, Rt. Hn. Sir Matthew W.
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (Renfrew)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stephens, Henry Charles
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Strauss, Arthur
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Thorburn, Walter
Thornton, Percy M.
Webster, Sir R. E. (Isle of Wight)
Williams, Joseph Powell- (Birm.)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord

TELLERS FOR THE AYES, Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Ambrose, Robert (Mayo, W.)
Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Burt, Thomas
Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)
Clough, Walter Owen
Collery, Bernard
Colville, John
Crilly, Daniel
Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
Daly, James
Davitt, Michael
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Donelan, Captain A.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Fenwick, Charles
Ffrench, Peter
Gilhooly, James
Greville, Captain
Grey, Sir Edward (Berwick)
Haldane, Richard Burdon
Hazell, Walter
Hedderwick, Thos. Charles H.
Hogan, James Francis
Horniman, Frederick John
Kilbride, Denis
Kinloch, Sir John Geo. Smyth
Lambert, George
Leng, Sir John
Lough, Thomas
Macaleese, Daniel
McDermott, Patrick
McEwan, William
McKenna, Reginald
Molloy, Bernard Charles
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morgan, W. Pritchard (Merthyr)
Morton, Edw. John Chalmers
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Connor, Arthur (Donegal)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
Owen, Thomas
Parnell, John Howard
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Power, Patrick Joseph
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robson, William Snowdon
Samuel, J. (Stockton-on-Tees)
Scott, Charles Prestwich
Souttar, Robinson
Stanhope, Hon. Philip J.
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Tanner, Charles Kearns
Thomas, Alfred (Glamorgan, E.)
Tully, Jasper
Wedderburn, Sir William
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, John Carvell (Notts.)
Wilson, John (Govan)
Wilson, Jos. H. (Middlesbrough)
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES. Mr. Dalziel and Mr. Lloyd-George.

The declaration of the numbers, indicating that the Bill had been lost, was received with ironical Opposition cheers.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY, rising immediately, said: It is evident that the attempt to carry on business during the Jubilee celebration is not wholly unattended with difficulties. In these circumstances, I beg to move "That this House do now adjourn." [*Ministerial cheers, laughter, and Opposition cries of* "No!"]

Question put, "That this House do now adjourn." The House divided:—Ayes, 58; Noes, 64.—(Division List, No. 250.)

SUPPLY [25TH JUNE].

Report deferred till To-morrow.

POST OFFICE CONSOLIDATION BILL [H.L.].

Committee deferred till Monday 12th July.

SUPPLY [18TH JUNE] REPORT.

Consideration of Postponed Resolution deferred till To-morrow.

POST OFFICE (SITES) [EXPENSES].

Committee thereupon deferred till Thursday.

SUPPLY.

Committee deferred till Wednesday.

LAND TRANSFER BILL [H.L.].

On the Order for the Second Reading of this Bill,

MR. HALDANE asked the First Lord of the Treasury when he proposed to take this Bill?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: Not now. [*Loud laughter.*]

MR. HALDANE reminded the right hon. Gentleman that on a former occasion he had referred to the Bill as a non-contentious Measure.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: There are differences between that occasion and the present of a most important character. [*Laughter.*]

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

PRISONS BILL.

On the Order for the Second Reading of this Bill,

Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY moved that the Order be read and discharged, and the Bill withdrawn. He said there was no hope of passing the Bill this Session.

Order for Second Reading read, and discharged; Bill withdrawn.

BICYCLES (IRELAND) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ALDERSHOT AND FARNBOROUGH) BILL.

Order for resuming Adjourned Debate on Second Reading [1st April] read, and discharged; Bill withdrawn.

BURIAL GROUNDS LOANS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Adjourned Debate on Second Reading [11th May] further adjourned till To-morrow.

STIPENDIARY MAGISTRATES' JURISDICTION (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

POOR LAW BILL.

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

DANGEROUS PERFORMANCES BILL.

Committee deferred till To-morrow.

SCHOOL BOARDS' EXPENSES BILL.

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

WAYS AND MEANS.

Committee deferred till Wednesday.

LAW OF EVIDENCE (CRIMINAL CASES) BILL.

Committee deferred till Thursday.

PUBLIC HEALTH (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Consideration, as amended (by the Standing Committee), deferred till To-morrow.

FINANCE BILL.

Committee deferred till To-morrow.

WORKMEN (COMPENSATION FOR ACCIDENTS) BILL.

Consideration, as amended, deferred till To-morrow.

SUPREME COURT OF JUDICATURE (IRELAND) ACT (1877) AMENDMENT BILL.

Committee deferred till Friday.

VEHICLES (LIGHTS) BILL.

Considered in Committee; Committee report Progress; to sit again upon Wednesday.

EDUCATION ENDOWMENTS (IRELAND) ACT (1885) AMENDMENT BILL.

Considered in Committee.

[Mr. Arthur O'Connor in the Chair.]

Clause 1,—

APPOINTMENT OF NEW COMMISSIONERS IN CASE OF DISAGREEMENT.

Where by reason of the disagreement of the Judicial Commissioners under the Educational Endowments (Ireland) Act 1885, herein-after referred to as "the said Act," a scheme has not been settled or submitted to, or approved by, the Lord Lieutenant in any case, it shall be lawful to the Lord Lieutenant to request the Lord High Chancellor and the Lord Chief Justice of England to nominate and appoint Commissioners for the carrying of the said Act into execution in such case.

Mr. W. JOHNSTON (Belfast, S.) moved "That the Chairman do report Progress, and ask leave to sit again."

Mr. VESEY KNOX (Londonderry) expressed the hope that his hon. Friend would not persist in his Motion. The Bill was a simple Measure; it had been fully discussed in Ireland, and there was nothing in it to call for a long discussion in Committee.

The CHIEF SECRETARY for IRELAND (Mr. Gerald Balfour, Leeds, Central) said he could not accept the statement that this was a simple Bill. When the Bill was introduced by the hon. Member for Louth the general principle of it was accepted by the Government; that was to say, the Government were prepared to allow the Second Reading to pass, but they did not pledge themselves to support the further stages of the Bill. That made it incumbent on the Government to put down such Amendments as would make the Bill a satisfactory Measure. The Government, however, had been unable to do that. He was, therefore, entirely unable to accept the statement of the hon. Member opposite that the Bill was a simple one, and he should support, and ask the House to support, the Motion of his hon. Friend.

Mr. GIBSON BOWLES desired to appeal to hon. Gentlemen opposite, who were now the provisional Government of the country—[*laughter*]—not to push their advantage too far. Hon. Gentlemen had proved that for the moment they held the Government in the hollow of their hand, and he would therefore appeal to them to allow hon. Members on the Government side, who were not sufficiently informed on the subject of the Bill to take up its consideration now, to go away and instruct themselves, to go over to Ireland if necessary—[*laughter*]—and gather information there, and then come back to the consideration of the Bill. He trusted that the majority were not going to be so unreasonable as to refuse to listen to the voice of reason. The Measure dealt with the future of the education of every child in Ireland, and with the future position of every teacher. [*Laughter.*]

Mr. KNOX, on a point of order, suggested that the hon. Member's remarks were not relevant.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arthur O'Connor), held that the hon. Member was in order.

Mr. GIBSON BOWLES, continuing, said he was urging in favour of the Motion to report progress, on the ground that hon. Members were insufficiently furnished with information on the subject of the Bill. This was the 29th Order of the Day. Who would have supposed that morning that the House would have hurried through 28 Orders of the Day while the Irish Members were away attending to their superior social duties? [*Laughter.*] How could they do justice to Ireland in a Bill of this sort at a time when the House was almost empty? [*Opposition cries of* "No, no!"] The House was not adequately furnished with Members to take into consideration a Bill like this. He thought he had given adequate reasons why the Bill should not be proceeded with now, and if the hon. Member opposite went to a Division he should undoubtedly give his vote against him. ["Hear, hear!"]

Question put, "That the Chairman do report Progress, and ask leave to sit again.

The Committee divided: Ayes, 69, Noes, 70.—(Division List, No. 251.)

The announcement of the numbers was received with loud Nationalist cheers and laughter.

Mr. JOHNSTON opposed the clause. He said that the object of the promoters of the Bill was to amend the Educational Endowments (Ireland) Act 1885, in such a way as to bring about an alteration in the administration of the Erasmus Smith Endowments. The hon. and learned Member for North Louth and his Friends wanted to throw open to Roman Catholics endowments which were intended exclusively for the Protestants of Ireland. The Erasmus Smith endowments were intended to benefit Protestants and to encourage the conversion of Roman Catholic children to a better faith. [*Cries of* "Oh!"] There was no reason why in the year of the Queen's Jubilee the intentions of the founder of these endowments should be set aside. He might remind the Committee that Her Majesty had taken an oath to maintain the Protestant form of religion. [*Nationalist cries of* "Oh!" *and laughter*].

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. ARTHUR O'CONNOR) called attention to the purport of the clause, and pointed out that the hon. Member was going into matters which were hardly relevant to the section.

MR. JOHNSTON said that he was aware of the purport of the clause, but there was a good deal behind it. [*Laughter.*] He trusted that the clause would be negatived.

LORD HUGH CECIL asked whether, in view of the numbers in the recent Division, and the peculiar circumstances of the case, it would be an abuse of the Rules of the House to move again that progress be reported?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. ARTHUR O'CONNOR) did not think that it would be quite seemly to put a Motion of that kind so soon after the recent decision of the Committee. ["Hear, hear!"]

*MR. ALFRED HOPKINSON (Wilts, Cricklade) asked for an explanation of the clause, and said that it would only be fair to the Committee to explain it. He doubted whether any Members on his side of the House understood the clause correctly. Apparently it was proposed to make a totally new departure in legislation and to give an appeal from an Irish judicial body to an English tribunal in matters relating to the appointment of Education Commissioners. Why was it that the Members who were constantly asking that the jurisdiction of Irish authorities might be extended desired in this particular case that special jurisdiction should in effect be given to English officials? Such a change of front naturally created some suspicion, and it was hardly treating the Committee with respect to make proposals of this kind without explanation.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR expressed astonishment that the appeal of the hon. Member had not met with a response. [*Derisive laughter, and* an HON. MEMBER: "The Chief Secretary responds!"] The hon. Member was right in saying that this clause as it stood was almost unintelligible—nay, he might go further and say that it was not fully understood even by the hon. Member at present in charge of the Bill. He thought that, in the absence of the hon. Member who introduced the Bill, the hon. Member for Derry might at least have done the House the compliment of telling it what was really meant by the proposal. If a question like that contained in the Bill was to be submitted afresh to another tribunal, he ventured to say that the tribunal chosen should not be two new Commissioners, but that it should be the Appeal Court in Ireland itself, and that there should be a further appeal to the House of Lords. This was a matter in which the Protestants of Ireland had the deepest interest; and he did not think it would be fair or right to them that the decision of this matter should be placed in the hands of two new Commissioners, who, so far as the Bill was concerned, need not even be Judges. He therefore opposed the clause.

MR. WOLFF (Belfast, E.) said that the Protestants of the North of Ireland took the strongest interest in this Question, and they relied on the Government not to sanction the alteration contemplated by the Bill. They would do their best to prevent the Bill from passing, and at present he opposed the clause.

MR. KNOX now understood that after strenuous efforts the Government had been enabled to regain their mastery in the House. [*Laughter.*] He found, however, that the Government had been placed, not for the first time, in the position of opposing in June what they had supported in January. He did not wish to press too far the advantage he and his hon. Friends had gained, and, therefore, he moved "That the Chairman do report progress, and ask leave to sit again." [*Laughter.*]

Question put, and agreed to.

Committee report progress; to sit again To-morrow.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE.

The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY said he understood that a change, not less substantial because it had no manifestation in the Division Lobby, had taken place in the affairs of the House—[*Opposition laughter*]—and he moved, "That the House do now adjourn."

Mr. J. SAMUEL (Stockton) appealed to the right hon. Gentleman to allow the Motion for the Steam Engines and Boilers (Persons in Charge) Bill to be referred to the Standing Committee on Trade to be proceeded with now, the Debate having been adjourned on February 17.

Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE (Carnarvon Boroughs) hoped that the Leader of the House would respond to this appeal. The Measure was of importance industrially, and it had been Read a Second time this Session. A strong feeling existed in favour of it among the working classes of the country, because it affected the lives and the limbs of workmen employed under dangerous conditions. What advantage was to be gained by adjourning the House at that early hour? Was there any reason of State? The right hon. Gentleman had not adduced a single reason in favour of his Motion. Hon. Members had enjoyed their holiday over the Jubilee, and other persons in the community had returned to work. [*Cries of* "Divide," *and* "Order!"] The Twelve o'clock Rule had been suspended repeatedly in order to force measures through this Session, but now with five hours ahead of them for work the Government proposed to adjourn rather than deal with a Bill affecting the working classes. He hoped that this fact would be remembered by the constituents of hon. Members opposite, and especially by the constituents of the hon. Member for Haggerston. [*Cheers.*] They would not, he hoped, also forget to remember that with such a Bill before them the Leader of the House got up and contemptuously moved the adjournment without an argument being adduced in favour of the Motion. Thus, when the interests of the Church were concerned, and when there was an opportunity of passing a Bill reforming the administration of the Church in London, the right hon. Gentleman opposite said, "No, let us go to a theatre or a dinner party," instead of legislating for the Church and the working man. He opposed the adjournment.

Mr. LOUGH said that he thought the right hon. Gentleman might look favourably on the suggestion which had been thrown out, and take the next two Orders, both of which were practically unopposed. They had been before the House frequently, and were agreed to in principle by both Parties.

Mr. DALZIEL asked the right hon. Gentleman to consider that private Members had had very few opportunities this Session. At the very commencement of the Session, for reasons that were considered satisfactory by the House, the right hon. Gentleman thought it necessary to take Tuesday evening, and at a later period he took Wednesday. During the last few weeks there had been practically no opportunity of moving a private Member's Bill, and he appealed to the right hon. Member whether he would not in this matter make a slight concession to the Opposition. He was sure he would agree that they had paid every deference to the wishes of the Government in the course of to-night; and he hoped, as the right hon. Gentleman was anxious to get away, and they were also anxious to get away, provided they could get the Bills they were anxious to see passed, he would be willing to consider the suggestion which had been put before him. He wished to point out that the two next Bills were practically non-contentious. Surely the right hon. Gentleman could allow the Archdeaconry of London Bill to be read a Second time. It was a Bill promoted by Members of his own side of the House as well as on the opposite side, and there were special and urgent reasons why it should be passed in the course of the present year. It was a Bill which he was sure the right hon. Gentleman himself would support if he was made acquainted with its provisions. With regard to the Bill of his hon. Friend, it had been accepted by the House, and all they asked was that it should be committed to the Standing Committee upstairs. If the right hon. Gentleman would make these small concessions, he would not be detained long.

*Mr. J. G. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty) said if the right hon. Gentleman was in the mood for making concessions, he hoped he would consider the Crofters' Holdings (Scotland) Act (1886) Amendment Bill, and the School Board Electorate (Scotland) Bill. He had endeavoured for the last two Sessions to get these Bills through, and he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would concede either the one or the other, or, better still, both. [*Laughter.*]

Mr. GIBSON BOWLES trusted the right hon. Gentleman would not make any concessions. [*Cheers.*] As for saying that he had given no reason for the adjournment, he had given the best possible reason, namely, that there were now more Members on his side of the House than there were some time ago. [*Laughter.*] He would remind hon. Gentlemen that in the hour of their triumph they exercised their power without mercy. The measure of their iniquity was now full. [*Laughter.*] The right hon. Gentleman should remember their misdeeds in the past when a contrary state of things obtained. He certainly ought not to give way on a Bill which he was informed was most highly contentious. If the conduct of hon. Gentlemen opposite had been just, not to say generous, he might have given way on a non-contentious Bill; but he could not allow their appeal to be made without making an appeal in a contrary direction. [*Cheers.*]

Dr. CLARK (Caithness) said the two Bills in question were very important Bills, and they were practically non-contentious. ["No, no!"] They had been before the House for years, and had been modified, the one by Members on one side of the House and the other by Members on the other side. Both Bills had been discussed and approved; but the half-past five o'clock Rule prevented their being sent to Committee; and now there was time to do it, the right hon. Gentleman refused, in a congested House, to send these two Bills forward for further consideration—for that was all they asked. He could understand the Government feeling a little sore after being three times defeated, but he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would give way.

Dr. AMBROSE (Mayo, W.) suggested that the Government and their friends, if they were tired, should go home and leave Members on that side of the House to do the work. [*Laughter.*]

Question put, "That the House adjourn." The House divided:—Ayes, 133; Noes, 76.—(Division List, No. 252.)

House adjourned accordingly at Half after Seven o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Tuesday, 29th June 1897.

QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE.

HER MAJESTY'S ANSWER TO THE ADDRESS.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR (Lord HALSBURY): I have to acquaint your Lordships that, in pursuance of the Resolution of the House, I presented to Her Majesty an Address on the occasion of the celebration of the jubilee year of her reign, and Her Majesty was graciously pleased to make the following reply:—

> "I thank you for your loyal and dutiful Address.
>
> "I have been deeply touched by the numerous manifestations of loyalty and affection to My Throne on the occasion of the celebration of the completion of the Sixtieth year of My reign, and I am sincerely gratified by the warmth with which you associate yourself with them."

MESSAGE FROM ITALIAN SENATE.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR: I have also to acquaint your Lordships that I have received from the Vice President of the Italian Senate a telegram which has evidently been delayed in transmission, and was intended to reach this House on the 22nd. The telegram I conceive to be in the following terms:—

> "The Senate of the Kingdom of Italy have resolved to convey to your Excellency their sentiments of deep respect and high admiration with which they associate themselves with the wishes of the great and noble British nation for the welfare of their glorious Queen on the occasion of the completion of the 60th year of a reign immortalised by progress in civilisation and benefits conferred on humanity."

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS (SCOTLAND) BILL [H.L.].

A Bill to enable returning officers at municipal elections in Scotland to take the use of certain rooms free of charge.—Was presented by the Lord Balfour; read 1ª; and to be printed.—(No. 133.)

SUNDAY BILL [H.L.].

*LORD HOBHOUSE moved "That this Bill be now read a Second time." He said: In introducing this Bill for Second Reading, I must first state in what shape it comes before the House. A similar Bill was introduced in 1895, and when the Second Reading was moved, Lord Cross moved, by way of Amendment, that the matter should be referred to a Committee to inquire what Amendments it is expedient to make in the Act which we seek to alter. I observe that our opponents adhere to calling it "The Lord's Day Act." That is not its title; it is only one of many Acts relating to Sunday, and is very far indeed from being the most important. It is better to call it the Act of 1781. Well, the Committee was appointed, and held sittings during the years '95 and '96, and it reported towards the end of '96. It consisted of 11 Members, and on the two important questions raised by the present Bill it was as nearly divided as a Committee of 11 can be. Five Members voted for the reforms we now propose, and six voted the other way. There can be only one Report, and that, of course, is in the sense decided by the six and adverse to the Bill; but the actual division of opinion is as I state. Now, my Lords, I must explain the law which harasses me and those for whom I speak; and if I am tedious, as I shall be, I pray you to recollect that the subject is new to most who sit here; that it runs into many subtle legal details, and that without mentioning many of them I cannot make it clear what is the case that we have to present. The Act was passed in the year 1781, and its policy is apparent from its preamble and also from some memoranda left by its author, Bishop Porteus. I will quote a passage from those memoranda. The Bishop says:—

> "It imposes no other restraint than this—which is, surely, no very great hardship—that no one shall either pay or be paid for talking blasphemy or profaneness in a public room on the Lord's Day. It takes away, in short, no other liberty but the liberty of burlesquing Scripture and making religion a public amusement and a public trade."

And then he adds, with much self-complacency,

> "which I was inclined to think their Lordships would not consider essential marks of religious freedom."

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

No, indeed; and if the Act were what the Bishop states it to be, I should not be now speaking at this Table. But I will show to your Lordships what it really is. It enacts that if a room is opened for entertainment or amusement or debate, and if the public are admitted, and if they are admitted for money, the room shall be deemed a disorderly house. Then, having made it a disorderly house, it goes on to attach penalties. The keeper of the house is to forfeit £200 a day; and over and above that he is punishable as the law directs in the case of disorderly houses. The managers or conductor or chairman are each to forfeit £100. Every door-keeper and servant is to forfeit £50. Now your Lordships will see how very far the Act extends beyond its policy as stated in the preamble, and by the Bishop. There is not a word in the enacting part about immorality or blasphemy or profaneness. Any debate, however sober and serious, any amusement, however innocent or refined, given from any motive however good; all are struck at alike. Probably the belief that the Act was striking only at immorality, blasphemy and so forth, explains its savage character; otherwise it is almost inconceivable that the legislature of that day should have classed such innocent practices as I have referred to with odious malefactors, and have saddled them with enormous penalties not capable of mitigation, and for which any common informer might sue. Now I have referred to the expression "disorderly house," because the Act rests upon it, and I will make a few remarks on it and then dismiss the subject. The Committee's Report treats this expression as mere "inappropriate phraseology," and as if it added nothing to the terrors of the Act. But there is the express language of the Act to the contrary. It has only once, so far as I know, been the subject of judicial opinion, and that was in the Leeds litigation to which I shall hereafter refer at greater length. In that case the effect of the words was discussed. It was not necessary to decide it, for the case went upon another point. But in delivering judgment Mr. Justice Mathew expressed the opinion that it subjected the offender to imprisonment and hard labour. In the Court of Appeal the Judges did not repeat that opinion in so many terms, but they did refer sympathetically to this expression as showing the caution with which it ought to be applied. Of course, anybody is at liberty to think that the Judges are wrong, and so my colleagues seem to have thought, though I do not. But is it fair that persons doing acts perfectly innocent except for an arbitrary law, should be left with these risks hanging over their heads, when the express words of an Act of Parliament, and the only judicial opinions that have been given on it are against them. It is not pleasant to find that you are the victim of "inappropriate phraseology." Indeed it is the very substance of the Act, and not its wording, that is inappropriate. Now, as I admit that if the Act were altered upon this point alone it would not be sufficient, I say no more, but pass on to show how the Act is now being worked. I shall hardly be contradicted when I say that for many years there has been felt profound dissatisfaction with the restrictions, legal and social, which prevailed against the free use of Sunday in the early part of this century. That feeling or movement has been going on all my life, and there is no symptom of its abating; and that for the most obvious reason, because where it has produced practical results they have been satisfactory to the sense of the community. Amongst other results, a desire sprang up for some refined and rational recreation on Sundays, apart from Divine worship or religious exercises; and societies, now well known as Sunday Societies, were called into being to meet that desire. They endeavour to provide such kind of recreation, for all classes, indeed, but mainly for the humbler classes; for those who cannot provide it for themselves, and who are too busy or too tired to enjoy it on other days of the week when provided by others. Some of these societies provide lectures, some music, some pictures, different things. But their mode of working is the same in each case. They have to pay for their machinery, when it is not provided gratuitously as sometimes it is—I mean the hiring of a hall, lighting, cleaning, attendants, a lecturer, singers, and so forth, and perhaps a secretary for correspondence. But the whole labour of arrangement, the whole risk of expense, and often some of the expense itself, falls upon the members of the societies. None of them receive any profit except so far as the payment of a secretary or clerk, who gives up all his time to it, may be considered profit. Some of them are in such happy circumstances that they can admit their audiences without payment; but more of them find it expedient to make a small charge, and so to eke out their resources. Now it is the Sunday Lecture Societies, to one of which I belong, who are most hit by the recent decision, and are now being the most harassed by it; and it is of them that I am now about to speak. Our Society clearly fulfils two of the conditions which bring it within the Act of 1781. We admit the public, and for payment, either by purchased tickets or by asking a shilling at the door. If we open for entertainment, amusement, or debate, we are "a disorderly house." As regards debate, we have a peremptory rule prohibiting even the common and useful practice of asking the lecturer a question, lest the question and answer should lead to debate, or be itself considered a debate. As regards amusements, there have been lawsuits on the meaning of the term, and until within the last three years or so the general impression was that if the main scope and objects of the Society's lectures was a serious one, the law was not broken, although a particular lecture might have its amusing side. But then came the Leeds case. The Leeds Society employed a well-known gentleman called Max O'Rell to deliver a lecture. It was found that the lecture was instructive, but this gentleman has a vein of humour, and he sets his audience laughing. Upon that, certain persons were prosecuted for penalties, and it was laid down at the trial, and again by the Court of Appeal, that it was not the general scope of the Society's operations which determined the character of the lecture-room, but the incidents of a single lecture. The jury were told that if the lecture was amusing the place was a place of amusement, and therefore "a disorderly house," and they found accordingly. In that particular case, indeed, the suit failed because the plaintiffs had the bad luck to sue the wrong man. But the law was laid down as I state it. Now just see in what a precarious position the Sunday Lecture Societies are placed. A single man may be jocose in a single lecture, and because he is so, the innocent keeper of the hall, the innocent chairman, the innocent doorkeepers and attendants, who don't know what he is going to say, may all find themselves involved in setting up a disorderly house, and be ruined by penalties; or if the penalties are remitted (as now by subsequent legislation they may be) the same people may be ruined by costs which cannot be remitted. That, my Lords, is the law which we seek to alter. Now who are the people who set the law in motion against practices so innocent in themselves? Not the neighbours, not the people of the towns among whom the societies work. The evidence stands uncontradicted that those people do not oppose Sunday Societies, but favour and support them. There are, however, two societies which exist for the purpose of maintaining prohibitions on the use of Sunday. One is called "The Working Men's Lord's Day Rest Association." It is not a society of working men; but it exists in perfect good faith for the benefit of working men, and to promote Sunday rest and decrease Sunday labour. That Society has never attacked Sunday Lecture Societies. Its Secretary, Mr. Hill, a gentleman of long experience and great ability, regrets that Sunday Societies should address themselves to secular subjects on a Sunday, but he does not think that they ought to be interfered with by law. On the contrary, he has himself come forward to propose one of the reforms which this Bill seeks. The other Society, called the Lord's Day Observance Society, is worked on very different principles. It takes the theological ground; that there exist Divine commands against doing certain things on Sundays, our Sunday lectures being one; and they admit of no compromise or relaxation in any enactment which favours their views. It is they, and they alone, who harass the Sunday Lecture Societies. They go about now brandishing the Leeds decision in their favour, and frightening simple people from aiding good work. It happened to me not many weeks ago to be applied to by a friend of mine, a clergyman of the Church of England, who had undertaken to deliver a lecture for one of these societies. Directly that was notified, he received a letter from the Lord's Day Observance Society, warning him that first the Courts of Law, and secondly the House of Lords, had held that the work of the Sunday Societies was illegal. Now, of course, that was not true, but it was quite enough to frighten an unskilled person—and, indeed, it is perilously near the truth. If the writer had said that a lecturer might, unless he were dull enough, trip over into illegality, and so turn a serious meeting into a disorderly house, and bring ruin on his unwitting employers, then he would have spoken the truth. My Lords, this is not a theoretical grievance; it is one of a very practical kind, and some of its effects are shown in the Committee's Reports. I will read the passage—"Sir Robert Ball has refused to lecture for the Sunday Lecture Society." That is my society, and I need hardly add that Sir Robert Ball was one of the most attractive of our supporters; but he is full of humour and in the habit of making his audiences laugh; and when he learnt that in that way his lecture room became a disorderly house, he refused to lecture any more. I go on with the Report—

> "Other lecturers have been equally frightened, and proprietors of halls have been vexed, and require guarantees. At Leeds the funds have been cut short. At Liverpool they are afraid of transgressing the law. In Norwich, the fear how the Act may be construed, apparently before the Leeds case, has stopped the society altogether. In Bristol, action has been stopped by the decision. In Newcastle, Dr. Watson says, 'some of them will not preside any more until the Leeds decision is removed. We are carrying on as we did before, but we always have the chance that we may have to fight an action about it; and that is not an agreeable state of affairs. It is not agreeable to be carrying on anything that has been held not to be according to the law.'"

My Lords, I have never pretended that it is any very large section of society which is affected by this law. But it is not wholly inconsiderable even in numbers. There are many societies, and the smallest of them counts several thousands of people among its audiences between one year's end and the other. And I claim that those who avail themselves of these lectures are of the more thoughtful and refined members of the classes to which they belong, and that when they come to ask for the mitigation of an oppressive law they are deserving of attention and respect. Now I pass to the remedies. And first I take that which stands second in our Bill, because it is the simplest. We propose that no process shall be commenced under the Act of 1781 without the consent of some public authority. The Bill specifies the Attorney General. That is my doing, because I followed the example which Lord Cross set some twenty years ago. Mr. Hill, of the Rest Association, proposes a local authority. I myself, and as far as I know the rest of us, are very indifferent as between these two classes of public authority. What we want is to be relieved from the oppression of private irresponsible individuals, who would take it as a compliment if I called them religious fanatics, and we feel confident that if any responsible public official has a voice in the matter, our societies will receive a large, even if not a complete, measure of protection from improper lawsuits. But in order to show the nature of the present issue, I must state what has been done on this subject. By far the most important of the Acts relating to Sunday is that of Charles II., which prohibits ordinary Sunday trading and labour. Some years ago a gentleman, very zealous for the sanctity of Sunday, thought fit to set on foot a number of prosecutions against costermongers and small tradesmen. That created consternation amongst the victims and indignation among their neighbours. And things came to this pass, that a Bench of Magistrates refused to hear cases unless brought before them by some public authority. However illegal their action may have been, it was universally felt that they had good sense on their side. And the matter was taken up in Parliament, not by way censuring the Magistrates, but in order that the course which they had adopted might be sanctioned by law. In the year 1871 the late Lord Aberdare introduced a Bill providing that processes under the Sunday Trading Act should not be instituted except with the sanction of certain local authorities. Lord Aberdare placed his action upon this principle. He said: "The offences are not against individuals, but against the public sense of decency and order; therefore, there should be some authority interposed between the common informer and the Magistrate." It would seem that everybody concurred in that view and the Bill passed into law. Now, I ask why is that not a precedent for our case? The Committee's Report gives no reason whatever; it merely says that prosecutions for Sunday trading stand upon a wholly different footing from those under our consideration. But I ask why? Where is the distinction? I have not yet heard it stated. I assert that for all purposes affecting the present discussion the two cases stand on precisely the same footing. In both cases there was the indiscreet zeal of an individual causing disturbance of society. In both cases an old law was called out an put to an unexpected and harsh use. In both cases the offence, if any, was not against individuals but against the public sense of decency and order. I ask again, why should not the same remedy be applicable to both cases? Then the Report gives a reason for rejecting this remedy—viz., that the matter has been already dealt with by Parliament. It says, "When the subject was debated in Parliament in 1875, the course deliberately adopted was to pass the Remission of Penalties Act 1875, as a more suitable safeguard against the misuse of the Act of 1781." Well, then, let us see what was done in 1875. In that year the owners of the Brighton Aquarium were sued for penalties under this Act. The Judges who tried the suit, Blackburn and Field, expressed regret that the Act should be put to such abuse; but they found themselves obliged to give judgment against the defendants. Then there was a general desire, in which the Home Secretary, Lord Cross joined, that the penalties should be remitted. But they belonged to the informers, and the Crown had no power to remit them. He therefore introduced a Bill for that purpose, and his Bill contained the very Attorney-General Clause which we propound in our Bill. But it was introduced very late in the Session, and though remission of penalties was not opposed, the Attorney General Clause was opposed by the Lord's Day Societies. On the 5th of August the present Lord Rookwood moved the Second Reading, and stated that the Bill was now unopposed because the Attorney General Clause was dropped! In the course of the proceedings Lord Cross said, "I do not pretend for a moment that this Bill can be looked upon as a settlement of the general question." In Committee on the 7th August Lord Rookwood spoke of the Bill as a temporary Measure, and he held out the prospect of a future Bill providing regulations as to costs, and the protection of the Attorney-General's fiat. I can say, from my reading of "Hansard," that this view was taken by all speakers, including Lord Cross. Now, then, I think it will be admitted that to speak of these proceedings as a deliberate adoption of the remission of penalties by way of more suitable safeguard is a misconception. The adoption was simply owing to pressure of time, and the more suitable safeguard, which would be not only against penalties, but against costs and vexation, was postponed to a more convenient season. Even that is not quite all. Lord Cross is reported to have used these statesmanlike words; that "those who sought to enforce the Act as in the case of the Brighton Aquarium, were taking the strongest step possible to secure the repeal of the Act." I beg leave to borrow these words, and to say that those who seek to enforce the Act as in the case of the Leeds Sunday Lecture Society are taking the strongest step possible to secure the repeal of the Act. In fact, the Leeds case is a more glaring instance of improper prosecution than the Brighton case. At Leeds there was a simple lecture, nothing in the way of what is commonly understood as entertainment or amusement. It was given at the expense of the Society, except so far as shillings at the door reimbursed them. The local feeling was so strong in its favour, that when the suits became known, public meetings were called. Contributions were made to meet costs; not by the adherents of the Society alone, but from a number of other quarters: because people felt that the principle of individual liberty was being infringed. When the suit came on it was strongly condemned by the judges and by the jury, who went so far as to recommend the repeal of the Act. And yet the will of the private persons prevailed; the suits were pressed, and they only failed by an accident. One can hardly conceive a stronger illustration of the necessity for a controlling public authority in this matter. My Lords, I submit that if this Bill contained this provision alone, it would call for a Second

Reading; and, even if in Committee, this House should think fit to strike out the other provision, it would remain a valuable reform, and a great safeguard against oppression. We do indeed seek a more complete amendment of the law and relief to ourselves. The second clause of our Bill proposes that the Act shall not apply to lectures or music, if the proceedings are undertaken for the public good and not for the profit of the promoters. My Lords, I am very sorry that this proposal underwent no discussion in our Committee. I should have been glad of criticism, because though our principle is not new, it is applied to a new subject matter, and it may well be that we have not chosen the best expressions for our object. But the whole discussion was swept away because the majority thought that the law was entirely satisfactory and in accordance with the wishes and sentiments of the English people, and does not require any amendment at all. Now I think I have shown that the law is about as unsatisfactory as any law can well be; that it is uncertain; full of pitfalls; resting on purely arbitrary rules and not on any moral or rational foundation; striking innocent people; terrifying others from doing good work; and, when put in action, exciting hostility in both Houses of the Legislature, and among judges and juries and the neighbours of the people struck at. We do not, however, propose so sweeping a measure as repeal of the law. We propose a new dividing line between that which is legal and that which is illegal, resting on a sounder and deeper principle than the mere chance whether a lecturer does or does not make his audience laugh, or than the distinction between asking a shilling at the door as the price of admission, and letting people inside the door and then asking them for money. I said the principle is not new; and in fact it has been applied by the Legislature many times during the past half century. I will give some instances. Companies formed for purposes not of gain can obtain certain privileges which they value much. If children perform for profits in public, certain stringent provisions are made for their protection; otherwise, if not for profit. If labour is exercised in places for purposes of gain special restrictions are applied; otherwise, if there is no gain. A person who takes charge of a lunatic for payment is guilty of a misdemeanour unless he complies with certain provisions; if not for payment he is free. The principle on which this criterion rests is a very obvious one; it is that people will not undertake laborious and expensive tasks with no intention of profit, unless it be for the good of their neighbours; and, at least, that no such tasks will be undertaken on a scale injurious to the community. That is not an arbitrary principle, but is founded on the ordinary workings of human nature; and I think that the persistence in it by the Legislature through fifty years without, so far as I know, any disaster or any objection, goes to show that it is a practical and a workable principle. Now, my Lords, I turn to objections founded on the supposed interests and supposed feelings of working men, which, I may observe, are now-a-days invariably called in to bolster up some law not otherwise maintainable. And here it is said that if we reform this bad law there will be such an increase of Sunday societies, and with them of Sunday labour, that the principle of Sunday rest will break down. Well, now, in the first place that will not apply to the Attorney General clause. That cannot increase labour. In the second place, the question of Sunday labour is a question of degree. All of us except the Lord's Day Observance Society agree that a great number of persons must work on Sunday in order that others may enjoy a proper Sunday rest. In each case the question is whether the advantages do or do not preponderate over the disadvantages. Now, as regards lectures, the evidence is clear that the amount of paid labour, which I have before indicated, is quite inappreciable; and, of course, we are not talking about the amount of unpaid labour, the labour of love given by the members of the societies. The way in which the increase of labour is brought in is by suggesting that there will be some vast upspringing of Sunday societies all over the land, and so labour will be increased. Well, that is, of course, a conjecture, and I conceive it to be a perfectly wild conjecture. It is founded on the evidence of a single man; a very able man no doubt, I am speaking of Mr. Judge, an ardent Sunday reformer, to whom we owe a great deal. But he is also a very sanguine man, and, indeed, if he had not been he would hardly have been so successful a reformer. In stating the opinion which is now treated by this Report as of such vast importance, though I do not observe that my colleagues attach any importance to the other opinions of Mr. Judge, he was careful to tell us that he was giving us his personal opinion only, and not that of the Sunday societies at large. In point of fact the rest of us do not agree with him; we do not expect any growth but the normal growth to which we have become accustomed, and we do not ask to reform the law on that ground, but for the sake of justice, and of relief from oppressive litigation. With regard to music societies it is true that they require more paid labour, because for the most part the performers have to be paid, but that is still small as compared with the benefit conferred, and it is very small indeed as compared with traffic labour, with domestic labour, and other kinds of labour not impeded by law. I feel sure that this labour argument would never have been brought forward if the main opposition to Sunday reform were not grounded rather on sentiment than on any sober calculation of what is good for society. Well, then, it is said that there is a great amount of feeling among the artisan classes against any alteration of this law. My Lords, I deny that there is any feeling against the work of Sunday societies, or in favour of the law which impedes it. If there were it must have been shown; but, as I have said, we have evidence that it has not been shown, and that the societies are largely attended and supported by working men. There is a feeling against destroying the general principle of general rest on Sundays. With that feeling the members of Sunday societies sympathise as heartily as anybody. Our contention is that we do not impede but aid Sunday rest; that we give a large amount of mental recreation with a very small expenditure of paid labour. It is that feeling in favour of a day of rest which is represented as though it were an opinion on the point now in issue. My Lords, we were very familiar with that method of controversy with regard to the opening of museums. In that case sweeping assertions were made and imposing petitions were got up, but when they came to be tested it was found that they were not opinions formed on the point in issue by any organised bodies or any accredited representatives of the working men; and though the illusion prevailed for a time it has now passed away. In the same way witnesses were brought before our Committee who protested in general terms against the relaxation of the law. But when they were brought to the point, when they were shown what the present issue really was, when they were asked whether there were any working men who wished to prevent other working men from spending a shilling in order to hear a lecture on Sunday evening no one could say that such a man existed. I was surprised when the majority of the Committee adopted that part of the Report which rests upon the evidence of an American gentleman named Nash. He was so clearly speaking, partly of American practices not governed by our laws, and wholly of the ordinary commercial trade in amusements, that in his case I did not even think it worth while to do as I had done with other witnesses, and bring him down to the point at issue. His evidence in the present matter is worth absolutely nothing. And then there is a petition put in, which the Report calls a weighty petition, from some 700 persons connected with amusement industries. It was put in after the evidence was closed; nobody was or could be examined upon it, and we have no means except from the petition itself of telling what was in the minds of those who signed it, or how far any one of them knew what is the point now in controversy. But all the petitioners say is that they—

> "hope that the law which prohibits the opening of places of amusement and entertainment for money payment may be upheld, so that the 500,000 persons employed in the amusement industry may be protected from the burden of Sunday labour."

Well, surely it is clear that these petitioners were, if they thought at all, thinking of the commercial trade in amusements for profit and not of this law at all. It is impossible that they could have used such language if they had present to their minds that the question is whether a serious lecture room shall be turned into a disorderly house because the lecturer is funny, or because the providers of the lecture take money at the doors instead of asking for it inside; or whether the test of legality shall be the reasonable and intelligible one of motive or some of those miserable trivialities and technicalities which I have been painfully endeavouring to make clear to your Lordships. My Lords, we are not proposing to relax any of the Sunday trading laws. Those who trade in amusements will be left by us exactly as they stand now. We are not proposing to relax any of the laws under which amusements are regulated for every day in the week, Sunday included. We are not erecting Sunday societies into trade societies. We are proposing a moderate cautious step to avoid oppressive misuse of a Statute never intended to affect such work as ours, and to save the scandal which always comes of oppression. I move the Second Reading of the Bill.

*THE BISHOP OF WINCHESTER rose to ask their Lordships not to give a Second Reading to the Bill. The noble Lord had with characteristic clearness and care set forth the facts as to the existing law, and the Amendments he would desire to see made in it; and if he thought that the noble Lord had in his speech really covered the whole ground, his own opposition to the Bill would be greatly diminished. But he did not think the noble Lord had done so. He might, perhaps, be pardoned for a personal allusion to himself. He could imagine that outside the House, and possibly even within its walls, the feeling might find expression that it was an obvious and natural thing that Bishops should oppose Measures of this kind. There was supposed to be in Bishops an ingrained Conservatism of an obstructive sort which incapacitated them from looking fairly at the two sides of any question in which religion was involved. Such was not, he hoped, his own plight, and evidence of the fact might be found in the part he had taken on this question, often, he was afraid, in opposition to most of his right rev. brethren. For more than ten years he had been strenuous and perhaps somewhat prominent in his advocacy of the opening of free libraries, museums, and picture galleries on Sunday. He did not know whether it would be out of place to mention that twice within the last three years the Sunday Society, with full knowledge of his opinions, did him the honour to ask him to become its president; and although he did not feel himself able to accept that honour, he might claim at all events, to speak as one not altogether out of touch with some of the aims and endeavours of the society. It seemed to him that the religious question, though he should be very far from ignoring it, was not mainly to the forefront in this matter. At any rate it was not distinctively on religious grounds that he opposed the Bill. The noble Lord had, rightly, no doubt, from his point of view, dwelt almost entirely on the lectures that would be given if the Bill became law. The lectures, however, were a comparatively small matter. They imposed little labour and involved little cost. The noble Lord had not dwelt on the words in his Bill, which would render legal on Sundays the performance of music, for money payment, and he would like to show their Lordships of what extension that phrase was capable. His belief was that if the Bill became law there would be an enormous increase of Sunday labour imposed on those who, while they appeared to undertake it voluntarily, would be practically compelled to undertake it, owing to the overcrowded state of the musical profession, and the consequent competition for engagements. He believed that such a change in the law must lead to abuses of a grave character, notwithstanding the provision that no entertainment should be productive of pecuniary profit to the promoters. On this point he wished to refer to the evidence of a gentleman who, more even than the noble Lord, more indeed than any living man had been identified with this particular movement—and was in fact, its chief promoter—Mr. Mark Judge. That gentleman said that, in his opinion, if the existing restrictions were repealed,—

> "instead of a dozen or twenty societies, we shall have these societies all over the country."

And a little later he said that unless the restrictions which he recommended, and which, be it carefully observed, were not inserted in this Bill, as to registration, etc., were stringently enforced—

> "I cannot see, for the life of me, how you are to prevent any nigger entertainment or any other entertainment going all over the country, and the ordinary amusements of a week-day being continued into the Sunday, which we do not want."

The noble Lord had told the House that they were safeguarded against these perils by the provision in the Bill that lectures and musical entertainments should not be undertaken for pecuniary profit to the promoters. But that safeguard would not have the effect the noble Lord claimed for it; for Mr. Judge had in his evidence very clearly pointed out how easy it would be for the nominal promoters of entertainments to be apparently, and perhaps really, free from personal pecuniary profit, and yet by the payment of the performers to make their entertainments such as the noble Lord had deprecated, such, namely, as were really carried on for profit. He had no hesitation in saying that after weighing the whole evidence with the utmost care, and he hoped, without bias, he had been led to the conclusion that the safeguard the noble Lord suggested would not prevent entertainments from being promoted which were totally different from anything their Lordships could desire to countenance. Who was, in such case, to ferret out who were the persons gaining pecuniary profit from an entertainment? The task of doing so was almost impossible. Important evidence was given on this subject before the Select Committee, and especially by one gentleman, who was engaged as a public entertainer and vocal comedian, Mr. Nash, who, on behalf of the profession, and especially on behalf of the huge body of instrumental musicians, deprecated in the strongest terms any interference with the existing law. Mr. Nash said:—

> "In my visits to America, professionally, I have had considerable experience of so-called 'sacred concerts,' and I fear that similar results to those I have witnessed there would follow the establishment of Sunday concerts here. In New York the law does not interfere with 'sacred' concerts, and so, under the sacred cloak, it is possible to give a complete variety entertainment at the theatres. For instance, I have, I am sorry to say, appeared at no less than three theatres in New York on a single Sunday night in a regular variety show, to which the public were invited in newspaper advertisements and bill boards announcing a grand 'sacred concert.' Not an item of sacred music was produced, except a short overture by the orchestra introducing an excerpt from Mozart's Twelfth Mass, and a solo, with variations on the cornet, 'Rousseau's Dream,' all the rest of the programme being of the rollocking variety customary in the variety show. There was the serio-comic singer, the musical moke, the nigger team, the Irish comic, the Dutch comic, and your humble servant with his laughing songs and burlesque cornet solos; also the Sisters Powderpuffe and a trapeze performance. The concerts were given in no hole and corner, but at first-class theatres, specially let for the night."

Such were the so-called sacred concerts which were conducted on the other side of the Atlantic, under auspices similar to those under which these entertainments, if sanctioned, would be given here.

*Lord HOBHOUSE asked whether the Sunday Trading law was in operation in New York?

*The BISHOP of WINCHESTER was unable to state exactly the terms of the American laws, but he believed they differed in different states. Mr. Nash, he might add, explained that musical performers who worked for seven days in the week in America earned no more than would be given for six days, and he deprecated with all his might the change which their Lordships were being asked to sanction. A petition signed by 734 members of the dramatic and musical professions had been sent to the Select Committee expressing the petitioners' hope that the existing law would be maintained so that the 500,000 persons "employed in the amusement industry" might be protected from the burden of Sunday labour. To this petition the greatest weight ought to be attached. ["Hear, hear!"] No one, of course, could defend the phraseology of the existing law. That a place where lectures were delivered on a Sunday or music was performed should be called "a disorderly house" was ludicrous, and he would willingly support a Measure introduced for the purpose of getting rid of terms of that kind. The noble Lord had dwelt with legitimate indignation and scorn upon the use of such a phrase in such a connection. But he might point out that this was not the only old Act of Parliament in which the phraseology used was ludicrously out of place, while the substantial enactment was wholesome. He would give a single instance. Some of their Lordships, and more frequently their wives, attended bazaars at which there were raffles. Did their Lordships know that those who were concerned in any way in such raffles could be prosecuted under the Act of George IV., and made to pay a forfeit of £50, and were to be deemed "rogues and vagabonds"? [*Laughter.*] The words of the Act were—

> "If any person shall sell any ticket . . . in any lottery . . . except such as shall be authorised by Act of Parliament . . . he shall for every such offence forfeit the sum of fifty pounds, and shall also be deemed a rogue and a vagabond, and shall be punished as such in the manner hereinafter described."

The language applied to lectures and other entertainments held for money payment on Sundays was, therefore, not the only hard language which the Statute Book contained. With regard to the Sunday Society's action in favour of opening museums, and the part he had himself taken in supporting it, he would point out that the supporters of the society had frequently declared that the proposals were confined to places of public resort belonging to the nation, and that there was all the difference in the world between private places of amusement and those in which, as National property, no money could be asked for with a view to anybody's profit. The change which the supporters of the Bill advocated might conceivably become advisable at a future time, but it certainly ought not to be introduced unless there was a great mass of public opinion supporting it, and at present there was no evidence of any such support. ["Hear, hear!"] He believed that if public meetings were to be held throughout the country, it would be found that there was an enormous preponderance of opinion against the change. The best worked Sunday lecture society was that carried on in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. It had the advantage of the superintendence and management of Dr. Spence Watson—than whom no more popular leader could be found. Well, he had laid that evening upon the Table of their Lordships' House, a petition signed by nearly 2,000 inhabitants of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, deprecating in the strongest terms legislation of this kind. The petition was signed by the Member for the city of Newcastle, who presumably knew the bent of his constituents' opinion, and by many other leading men. The Mayor of Newcastle had supported the Lord's Day Society in its protests. If it was the case that at Newcastle, where the work of the Sunday League had been so admirably carried on, public opinion was against this proposed change; might he not assume that the same views would be found on inquiry to prevail in the country generally if the proposal were submitted to the arbitrament of the popular voice? The truth was, this movement, well-intentioned as it was, was the movement of a handful of people. He did not deny that the lectures given were good, or that the desire for them was legitimate and wholesome in itself. What he feared was its indirect but certain consequence. Those legitimate needs could be supplied by voluntary effort through the agencies of clubs or societies, and their Lordships ought not to be asked on such insufficient grounds to remove the barrier of Sunday observance which was so necessary for the protection of people who could not protect themselves. This Bill, for the sake of removing a little grievance, would do a great wrong, and therefore he asked their Lordships to reject it. ["Hear, hear!"]

*EARL COWPER, as a member of the Committee which considered this subject, desired to say a few words upon it. The right rev. Prelate need not have begun his speech by expressing a fear lest some imputation might be cast upon him on account of the line that he took. The right rev. Prelate's opinions were known to be so just and liberal and conscientious that such an idea would never occur to any Member of that House. He felt sure that the right rev. Prelate's intentions were as pure as his speech was eloquent. Neither the right rev. Prelate nor anybody else who had spoken or written about this subject, could say that the object of the promoters of this measure was anything but a good one. No one had ventured to say that the lectures given by the societies referred to did anything but good, and he did not think that anyone had said that even the musical part had bad results. What the opponents of this Bill said in effect was that the present law prohibited a number of objectionable things, and also prevented the accomplishment of things which were good and beneficial, but they were unwilling to repeal the law because, if it were done, they believed that whilst things which were innocent and good would be permitted, things which were bad would also be permitted. But surely it was a confession of inability to legislate and of weakness to say that it was impossible to frame a Measure which would sanction what was beneficial, whilst preventing what was harmful. In his opinion the Bill before their Lordships, with a few alterations, would do exactly what was wanted. He believed that originally the existing law was passed for the purpose of stopping atheistical and revolutionary discourses. He did not think anyone would defend the Act now on that ground. Certainly Atheists and Anarchists were energetic people, and generally they were fanatical. They were too fond of airing their views to be inclined to charge their audiences large sums of money to hear them speak and deliver their pernicious opinions. Therefore, prohibiting the charging of money at the door would not stop any of those gentlemen. It was said that if they once allowed payment to be made at the door it would be impossible to avoid going very much further, to prevent music-halls from being opened on a Sunday evening, to prevent theatrical entertainments from being established, and musicians and actors from being deprived of their one day of rest. It was difficult to imagine that this Bill would have the effect contemplated. It was asked, "How are you to find out that no illicit profit is being made by the promoters of an entertainment?" It would be very easy to do so, no profit worth mentioning would be forthcoming to induce unscrupulous managers surreptitiously to form a company. The question would probably come before a jury, and nothing would be easier than for the jury to find out whether this was the case or not by examining the gross receipts which were received at any of those entertainments, the expense of hiring the room, and the payment to the lecturer. A good deal had been said about the employment of musicians and that these gentlemen opposed the Bill for fear that they would be worked to death. But there was nothing to oblige musicians to give their services against their will. As a matter of fact, there was more music heard in London on a Sunday morning than on any other morning of the week, and as far as fatigue went it did not matter whether it was in Church or in a public hall. Musicians had already temptations to sing and play on a Sunday, and if they refrained from singing or playing they did so because they preferred their day of rest. No musician would be in the power of a master who would be able to say, "If you won't work for me seven days a week you shan't work at all." The idea, therefore, that musicians would be overworked was a bugbear. Then it was said that it would be very difficult starting with the intention to give elevating and serious music, not to gradually degenerate until the music became more and more profane and perhaps frivolous. The plan, however, of only allowing performances by companies pledging themselves not to make a profit would perhaps be sufficient to obviate this possibility. But music was only one part of the question referred to in the Bill. If it were really thought that music-halls would be established indirectly through its operation, and that there were not sufficient safeguards, perhaps it would be as well to drop music altogether and confine the Bill to lectures and addresses on literature, science and art. He could not imagine any one objecting to anything which would relieve the intense tedium of Sunday afternoons in our large towns. This tedium was felt by many who were not indifferent to religion and who attended church regularly in the morning; while other members of the community were too often driven into the public-house or to other haunts of dissipation. If he thought that, as a result of the Bill, hundreds of these associations would be formed, and that bands of negro minstrels would be established for Sunday entertainment, he would not be in favour of the Measure. The right rev. Prelate had not even alluded to the third and most important clause, and he trusted that even if the rest of the Bill had to go the clause requiring the consent of the Attorney General would be accepted.

The ARCHBISHOP of CANTERBURY: I think that the wording of the Bill points out its weakness in such a way as to leave no possibility of escape from the danger that must attend it if passed into law. It is quite plain that the Bill contemplates the possibility of associations being formed for the purpose of Sunday lectures and Sunday entertainments of a character which would be altogether inconsistent with the character of Sunday. We have to consider what is the check that is to be put on these entertainments. The check is that these entertainments and amusements are to be undertaken by the promoters with a view to the public good, and not by way of trade or the pecuniary profit of the promoters. I should have thought, after our experience of the way in which trade penetrates into every conceivable channel in which there is room for it, that this would be a sufficient warning to us all that it is not possible to rely on such a check. It is certain, if your Lordships pass this Bill, that there will be no real power to check the gradual, I do not say the immediate declension of all those entertainments of whatever kind into the form which this part of the Bill is intended to prevent. I do not think that any one who knows anything of ordinary human nature, particularly with regard to the performance of music, where the competition is so exceedingly keen, can fail to acknowledge that it is hopeless to suppose, if once an opening be given, that it will not be taken advantage of. We are told on authority which cannot easily be set aside, that in many cases the employers of musicians would positively decline to employ those who refused to sing on a Sunday, and who confined themselves only to the other six days of the week. There are so many persons seeking employment of this kind that, if musicians refused to engage for seven days, employers would find many others ready without hesitation to take the places of those who preferred to engage only for six days. Everybody knows what is the effect of saying, "If this is to be done it must be done gratuitously; if you do this good for your fellow-creatures it must be at your own cost or of those who support and assist you; but you must not make a profit by inviting people to pay for admission." There at once you have a line that can be drawn unmistakably and can be enforced; but if you break that line and say payment may be taken, there is no definite line to be taken, for forthwith there enters the question what is profit and how much money may be taken. People take trouble, and are they to be paid? It is no more than fair, it will be said, that they should be paid for their trouble. It is very easy for promoters to plead that they do not want profit, but only reasonable payment for services, and it will always be possible for those who do want to make a profit to persuade good people to be promoters who do not want to make a profit, and to make their profit under that shield. I mention these things as instances to show the ways in which such a provision could be evaded, and I have not the slightest doubt it would be more and more evaded as time went on. Of course, it is quite true that just at first you might succeed in keeping to what you are here saying, but to say in the long run this provision will keep out profit-makers appears to me so unfounded a dream that I wonder how it could ever have been put into the Bill at all. One definite line you can lay down, but if you draw any other you will find you cannot enforce compliance with it. One thing that would make the Bill tolerable would be, instead of the words "provided the proceedings are undertaken with a view to the public good," to substitute some such words as "if no payment whatever were allowed to be made by those who attended such entertainment," then you would know what you are doing. This is, my Lords, a very real, a very serious question; it affects poor people in a way it does not affect men in our own rank of life. It does not touch us, but it touches poor people very closely. Among the poorer people those who are religiously inclined are very strongly opposed to such a Bill as this. I have been flooded with letters from artisans in all parts of England, begging me to oppose this Bill, and I know enough of working men, certainly in London, to be quite certain that very considerable numbers of them who are really religious people would very earnestly deprecate the passing of any such Bill as this. But I would not rest opposition on what religious men might feel, though, of course, that is an important consideration; there is a real danger that if the amusement lovers gain the day the money lovers will certainly follow, and the observance of Sunday as a day of rest will be very seriously imperilled indeed by the passing of such a Bill as this. I hope that the House, looking at all the considerations that ought to weigh with us in such a case as this, will agree with the right rev. Prelate who has spoken, and pause until they have obtained something like a general consensus of public opinion among the classes that would really be affected in a most serious manner before passing such a Measure. I do not object to Sunday lectures as such, I am not considering whether any other Bill might not do what is wanted; but we have to consider what we have before us, and I do think that to allow such work as this to go on, and for payment, will break down the observance of Sunday more than anything else that can possibly be done.

*Lord FARRER said the right rev. Prelate seemed to be extremely anxious for a different line to be drawn than that in the clause to which he had referred. His objections had been answered in anticipation by Lord Hobhouse, who pointed out how in many Acts such a line as was proposed had been drawn. Of one Act he could himself speak—the Joint Stock Companies Act—wherein a line of distinction was drawn as between associations carried on for profit and those that were not. The principle of laying down such a line had been recognised. But the right rev. Prelate was equally unhappy as to the existing line, and was anxious that it should be so laid down that nobody should pay any money, and he proposed that that should be inserted in the Bill. But if he did that he would make a large alteration in the present law. The law provided that no money should be taken at the doors, but though money was not taken at the doors, it would be taken in other ways, and was so taken. In the case of the Albert Hall, first of all money for admission was taken at the doors, but opinion being taken, and this declared to be illegal, money was taken for admission to a certain enclosure, but doubt being thrown on the legality of that practice, what was now done was, money was taken for seats and programmes, and with that money performers were paid. ["Hear, hear!"] And he believed exactly the same thing was being done in the parks. The right rev. Prelate would find some difficulty in drawing the line he had indicated. He was anxious to prevent musicians and others from being asked to perform for money on Sunday, but how many were now paid for performing on Sundays in cathedral and other choirs, in the Albert Hall, and in the parks? The whole of the speech had been directed to this clause, and payment for profit. If a prosecution were to be instituted by a public authority, that authority would look into the question whether profit was made by promoters or not. He would not object to the safeguard of a licence before a performance could be given, and he believed that such would be obtained wherever it was a respectable performance under conditions that would enable the licence to be withdrawn should it be abused. The point was one that could easily be met. At the time when Lord Cross introduced the Attorney General into his Bill, there was not that development of local authority now existing. Now every district, every town, every parish had its local authority, representing the feeling of the place, and that feeling would be expressed at once. When the subject of music in the parks was before the London County Council, the question of what music should be played was discussed. Those who knew most about music were against making any distinction, because they knew that a tune played in one time might be a merry jig, and in another time might sound like a psalm or hymn tune. The Council adopted a resolution preventing bands from playing dance music. He voted against it because he thought it foolish and illogical, but he was not so sure but that it was a sensible resolution to carry out the intention that the music should not encourage vulgar dancing on Sundays. The right rev. Prelate said he would not enter into the religious question, but that question did enter into prosecutions under the Act. There was striking evidence given before the Committee by a representative of the Lord's Day Observance Society. It was the evidence of a man who honestly expressed his convictions, but it was the evidence of a man who would condemn the way in which almost all their Lordships spent Sunday. He would not allow them to amuse themselves; he would have them only go to church, visit sick friends, and matters of that kind. His evidence would show what sort of a man he was, fully believing in his own Divine inspiration and knowledge of Divine law, and he would readily put in force this or any other Act against any amusement on Sunday, however innocent, however much it was desired. There was the evil of the Act—it was a two-edged weapon in the hands of those who did not know how to wield it. Whether the Attorney General or some other functionary or local authority should authorise a prosecution was a question for Committee. The right rev. Prelate had referred to petitions and letters he had received from innumerable people, but it was a pity that similar evidence had not been produced before the Committee.

THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY: The evidence has come within the last fortnight.

*LORD FARRER said he perfectly understood, but he thought it a great pity that the Committee had not the benefit of that or of similar evidences. So far from the evidence given to the Committee supporting the statement twice repeated in the Report of the majority that the present law was in accordance with the feeling of the English people, there was not a tittle of evidence given to them to that effect. No such evidence was produced, because no such evidence could be produced. On the contrary, he himself asked every witness from places in which these amusements had been given, what was the feeling in his town about these amusements, and the universal answer was perfectly favourable—that everybody liked them and wished for them. Mr. Justice Mathew, in the Leeds prosecution, condemned the Act in the strongest way, and said he thought the prosecution was probably brought only with the view of making a case for repealing the Act, so unjust and so hard did he think it. The jury added to their finding for the plaintiff a rider that they thought the Act ought to be repealed. Was it a state of the law, which they thought it desirable to continue, that every Judge and every jury which had to do with the Act condemned it and enforced it reluctantly? It was nonsense to say that this Act was in accordance with the wishes of the English people or with common sense or with reason. For Heaven's sake let them send this Bill to a Committee and there let them thresh it out and see what safeguards were necessary in order to make it work as they all wished it to work.

THE EARL OF PORTSMOUTH felt he must express himself as strongly as he was permitted by the Rules of the House in opposition to some of the remarks which had fallen from the noble Lord who had just spoken. The noble Lord seemed to consider that there was in this question of the Sabbath no religious feeling at all on behalf of the working classes. He was quite certain the noble Lord was entirely wrong upon that question. He did not think there was really any genuine desire, on behalf of the mass of the working classes, in favour of this Bill. The only class he believed who would really benefit from this Bill were the gentlemen who lectured on Sundays. Many of these lectures were called "secular," but, having listened to some of them, he found that they were generally the occasion upon which religious and political questions were discussed—the former from the point of view of atheism and the latter from the point of view of revolutionism. Although the noble Lord opposite might consider that the question of the Sabbath was all nonsense, he ventured to say that it was not nonsense from the point of view of the working classes themselves. They could not afford amusement, as it had been rather euphemistically called, without employing labour. It was all very well for some noble Lords to say that they wished to be relieved from the tedium of a Sunday afternoon, but what was far more important was that the mass of the working classes should be secured a holiday on Sunday. Those who were to afford this amusement, the musicians and others, represented the very trades which were not organised, and, as had been very ably pointed out by the right rev. Archbishop, it would come to this—that those men who declined to perform on the Sunday would probably lose their employment. He did not want to enter into niceties as to whether they could or could not get out of the question of profit, or as to whether the Attorney General or a local authority was to administer the question. All he would say was that he believed that it was to the interest of the working classes that the present position of the Sunday should remain as it was. He believed there could not be a greater misfortune to this country and to the working classes than that they should, by legislation, attempt to introduce the Continental Sunday. He should oppose this and any similar Bills which he thought would tend in that direction.

*LORD NORTON said Lord Farrer attempted to define what were the sort of amusements or entertainments that should be legal on Sunday. What could be more absurd than to attempt to make any such definition? It was the general principle that must guide them, and would guide magistrates, in dealing with this subject. What did the Bill propose? It proposed, to a certain extent, to state what kind of entertainments might be allowed, lectures, music, and so on, if for the public good. Who was to judge of the public good? A great many people thought that prizefighting was for the public good. They might have an Attorney General, if he was to be the person to decide the question, who might say that it was a very good mode of training men in manliness and courage, and that that would be a very fair kind of entertainment for Sunday. He could not quite agree with the right rev. Prelate, who said he did not take this question as a religious question. He thought it was a distinctly religious question, and nothing else but a religious question. It was the wish of this country that Sunday should be observed as a holy day, and should not be profaned, and it was simply upon that ground that they maintained the existing law. The question of introducing labour on Sunday afforded no argument at all. Did the noble Lord (Lord Hobhouse) mean to say that that might be taken as a test of what was lawful on Sunday and what was unlawful? That argument could be stated against every Sunday service, particularly now, when Sunday services were very ornate, and when large sums of money were paid for musicians, and a great deal of labour was occasioned by Sunday services. Then there was the argument of profit. A great many services on Sunday, certainly with the Dissenters in lecture rooms, were done distinctly for profit. It was no test of what was a lawful occupation on Sunday whether it caused labour, or whether it was done for profit. The sole feeling of the country upon this question of the Sunday generally was that they did not wish to introduce the mode of observing that day which was common abroad. By introducing little definitions of what might be considered lawful and what might be considered unlawful—definitions which were of no validity whatever—they were introducing the thin edge of the wedge which would end in the Paris Sunday—in horse racing, in theatres, and other amusements of that kind which they now considered, and which he hoped they would always consider, as unsuitable to the sacred nature of Sunday. He thought the decision of Lord Cross's Report was the right view to take—that though there might be phraseology in the existing law which ought to be altered, the general effect of the law as it now stood, and as it would be carried out, was in accordance with the wishes of the country.

LORD HERSCHELL desired to explain his reasons for supporting the Bill. If he thought the Measure was likely to create a serious breach in the treatment of the Lord's Day in this country, and to cause its assimilation, as it was feared, to the mode in which men occupied themselves in many other countries, he should certainly not be in favour of its Second Reading. He agreed that this was a matter which very deeply concerned the working classes. He thought that so much the case when Bills were proposed in that House for the opening of museums on Sunday, that he never voted for their Second Reading, not because he thought there was any harm in opening museums, but because it seemed to him that it was a matter which closely affected the working classes of the country, and that there might be reason for their apprehension as to the effect of even such an alteration upon the amount of labour which might ultimately come to be done upon what had been a day of rest. He sympathised with their apprehensions, although, at the same time, he confessed he did not entertain the same view as they did upon the subject. He was assured that the opposition of the working classes was intense and widespread, but the division in the other House, and what had happened since, showed that he was wrongly informed. He did not think any one was really competent to say what the views of the working classes were, but he confessed that, in his opinion, nothing would be more likely to lead to the mischief which noble Lords had apprehended than to leave the law as it now stood. ["Hear, hear!"] If they left the enforcement of the law to whoever chose to enforce it, something would happen one of these days which would make it impossible to maintain this law a day longer. In the Leeds case the jury appended to their verdict a rider to the effect that they thought the law ought to be repealed. In the long run men would not be got to find a verdict in a case which was against the general sense of right and justice. This law was administered at the will of irresponsible individuals. If these entertainments and lectures ought not to be given, let them all be stopped, or leave it to some public official or body, in whom they could repose confidence, to put the Act into operation. Of all things the one which was most undesirable was that it should be left to the caprice of a common informer, to put the Act in force against whom he pleased. He hated the common informer, whom he regarded as a relic of a barbarous age. One reason why he should vote for the Bill, if there were no other, was that it contained a clause which fettered the common informer, and left the enforcement of the law to the discretion of a public official. There was a precedent for it in the Bill of the late Lord Aberdare. He did not care whether they put the power in the hands of the Attorney General or of a local authority; his desire was that prosecutions should not be left to the common informer. He did not think there would be any danger in the matter. It was said that one Attorney General might be more ready to enforce the law than another; but what was the state of things now? It depended upon the common informer whether the law should be enforced, and as far as he could see there had been no principle in the enforcement of the law. At Leeds there was a lecture of a very proper kind. Those who originated the lecture were beyond reproach or suspicion, and yet they were prosecuted. Notoriously a number of other lectures of no superior qualities, promoted by people of no superior merits, were left unchecked and unfettered. He objected to that sort of law, and to that sort of enforcement of it. As regarded the second clause, he admitted there was a good deal to be said as to the possibility of maintaining it without evasion. He did not shut his eyes to the arguments used by the right rev. Prelate, and the most rev. Prelate on that point, and he thought the clause would require very grave and serious consideration. Personally he should like to see introduced in the Bill, even if the second clause were omitted, a distinct repeal of the provision subjecting the person who gave an entertainment of this kind to the liabilities of a person who kept a disorderly house, and in expressing these views he maintained that he was not showing himself in the slightest degree unfriendly to the maintenance of the Lord's day. [*Cheers.*]

THE ARCHBISHOP OF YORK said he did not think that amongst those who opposed the Bill there was one who would not be willing to see some modification or amendment of the Statute as it at present stood. If the noble Lord had confined his Bill to the clause requiring some local authority to sanction prosecutions under it, he did not believe a voice would have been raised against it.

*LORD HOBHOUSE said that that was distinctly rejected by the Committee.

THE ARCHBISHOP OF YORK said he was speaking of those who were opposing the Bill here. It was because of the far-reaching consequences of the earlier clause of the Bill that they felt it necessary to oppose the Second Reading. He trusted the noble Lord would yet see it wise to withdraw the Bill, to present to them another Measure really amending the Statute and not making it null, and providing an authority to sanction prosecutions if prosecutions must take place. The consequences of the present Bill would be most serious and disastrous, and he believed the provisions of the Measure were completely opposed to the feelings of the working people of the country.

*Lord HOBHOUSE believed that if they could pass a Bill containing the Attorney General clause alone, a very large number of those who supported the Bill would be willing for the present, and it might be for ever, to drop the rest of the Bill. If that were the understanding, he was quite ready to accept the olive branch which the most rev. Prelate had held out.

The LORD CHANCELLOR asked what was meant by "present?" Did it mean next Session or the Session after? With all respect to the most rev. Prelate, he did not agree with the suggestion just made. [*A laugh.*] He was anxious to say a word or two upon the subject of the Bill because he could not help thinking that a good deal had been said about something that was not in the Bill. His noble Friend who introduced the Bill argued against the existence of the Act of Charles II. as well as against the Act he proposed to amend. The noble Lord's whole argument depended upon the right of everybody to do what they liked on Sunday, and Lord Herschell wanted to get rid of the common informer. They were not discussing the general reform of the Statute, and the existence of the common informer.

Lord HERSCHELL said he was speaking in favour of the clause, which put a check on the common informer.

The LORD CHANCELLOR said his noble Friend objected generally to the common informer. But if they passed this Bill they would not get rid of the common informer. All they would do would be to prevent the common informer interfering in this particular matter. He was glad to see Lord Farrer was in his place. He denied that any conclusion could be drawn from the evidence of the witnesses or that the evidence of the working classes was all in favour of this Bill. What was the Question their Lordships had to decide? This Bill pleased nobody. Those who were anxious for a repeal of the law were entirely dissatisfied with a clause still leaving it open to the common informer to interpose, and he thought they were quite right. He could understand a repeal of the law, but this Bill was not for that. In fact, if ever there was a Bill produced calculated to promote litigation and render uncertain what the law was, he thought his noble Friend had accomplished it. There was no subject the discussion of which was excluded, for, after enumerating several, the Bill added, "or any kindred subject." Reference had been made to the opinion of Mr. Justice Mathew. This was a question of policy, and it was not for a judge to express an opinion on any Act. His duty was to direct the jury as to the law; it was not for him to decide as to the propriety or impropriety of an Act of Parliament. Lord Farrer had referred to "other judges." He did not know who they were, but, even were it true that all the judges entertained the noble Lord's view, this was a matter which Parliament must determine for itself. The learned judges were not in a better position to form a judgment than any one of their Lordships. If their Lordships passed this amending Bill it seemed to him that confusion would be worse confounded. He did not deny some of what had been said as to the state of the law. Any harsh enforcement of the law would probably cause its repeal, but he thought that those who were anxious to keep Sunday as it was would not harshly enforce the law. He hoped their Lordships would reject the Bill.

The House divided:—Contents, 33; Not-Contents, 50.

CONTENTS.

Ripon, M.

Camperdown, E.
Carrington, E.
Cowper, E.
Haddington, E. [*Teller.*]
Kimberley, E.
Morley, E.
Rosse, E.
Strafford, E.

Oxenbridge, V.

Belper, L.
Boston, L.
Burghclere, L.
Clifford of Chudleigh, L.
Dorchester, L.
Farrer, L.
Glenesk, L.
Granard, L. (*E. Granard*)
Heneage, L.
Herries, L.
Herschell, L.
Hobhouse, L. [*Teller.*]
James, L.
Kenry, L. (*E. Dunraven and Mount Earl.*)
Monkswell, L.
Morris, L.
Northington, L. (*L. Henley.*)
Sackville, L.
St. Levan, L.
Thring, L.
Tweedmouth, L.
Welby, L.
Wenlock, L.

NOT-CONTENTS.

Canterbury, L. Abp.
Halsbury, L. (*L. Chancellor*)
York, L. Abp.
Cross, V. *(L. Privy Seal).*

Grafton, D.

Abergavenny, M.
Bristol, M.
Hertford, M.

Belmore, E.
de Montalt, E.
Leven and Melville, E.
Morton, E.
Nelson, E.
Orford, E.
Portsmouth, E.
Romney, E
Stanhope, E. (*Teller.*)
Waldegrave, E.
Yarborough, E.

Falkland, V.
Portman, V.
Sidmouth, V.

Gloucester and Bristol, L. Bp.
Lichfield, L. Bp.
London, L. Bp.
St. Albans, L. Bp.
Winchester, L. Bp.
Ashcombe, L.
Balfour, L.
Brodrick, L. *(V. Midleton.)*
Calthorpe, L.
Clonbrock, L.
Colchester, L.
Colville of Culross, L.
Douglas, L. *(E. Home)*
Gage, L. *(V. Gage.)*
Hampton, L.
Hillingdon, L.
Ker, L. *(M. Lothian.)*
Kinnaird, L.
Lawrence, L. *(Teller.)*
Lovaine, L. *(E. Percy.)*
Napier, L.
Norton, L.
Poltimore, L.
Robartes, L.
Shute, L. (*V. Barrington.)*
Silchester, L. (*E. Longford*).
Templemore, L.
Ventry, L.

Resolved in the negative; Bill to be read a Second time this day six months.

EXTRAORDINARY TITHE BILL.

THE LORD PRIVY SEAL (VISCOUNT CROSS) moved the Second Reading of this Bill. He said the Bill was brought in by the late Government before they went out of office in order to do away with the effect of a decision on the Extraordinary Tithe Redemption Act of 1886. The Act was a compromise, and under Section 4 it was intended that the extraordinary tithe was to be capitalised and charged on the farm or on any particular parcel of ground which was subject to extraordinary tithe. The Courts had now held, however, that it was not to be charged on the farm, but on the parcel of land subject to extraordinary tithe. That was contrary to the spirit of the Act of 1886, and therefore this Bill was brought in.

Read 2ª (according to Order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Friday next.

FISHERIES ACT AMENDMENT BILL. [H.L.]

Amendments reported (according to Order), and Bill to be read 3ª on Friday next.

MERCHANT SHIPPING (UNDERMANNING) BILL.

THE SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF TRADE (The EARL of DUDLEY), in moving the Second Reading of this Bill, said that the object of the Bill was to do away with a defect in the merchant shipping law, which had for some time past caused considerable comment. Many of their Lordships were no doubt aware that since 1876 certain officers of the Board of Trade had power to prevent British ships leaving our ports in an unsafe or unseaworthy condition. If it were shown that a vessel was defective in her hull or machinery, or improperly overloaded, then, subject to an appeal to a Court of Survey, the surveying officers of the Board of Trade could order her detention. At that point the law stopped, and its framers appeared to have altogether ignored the case of a ship, safe and seaworthy enough so far as her cargo and appliances were concerned, but rendered dangerously unsafe by the fact that she carried an insufficient crew. The omission was a serious one, and it was difficult to conceive any condition which ought to be more taken into account in estimating seaworthiness than the adequacy of the crew, because undermanning not only affected the safety of a particular vessel, but by reason of the fact that in the circumstances navigation was found to be very slipshod, it constituted also a grave peril to other ships; and as an illustration of that he might remind their Lordships of the collision which took place between the *Crathie* and the *Elbe.* The Bill proposed to extend the scope of Section 459 of the Merchant Shipping Act of 1894, and to include undermanning among the reasons for which a ship might be detained; and in attempting to amend the Section the Board of Trade followed the recommendation of the very strong Committee which, under the Chairmanship of Sir Edward Reed, recently investigated the subject. That Committee fortunately was able to report that, in the great majority of cases, British ships were managed with careful regard to the safety of life and the welfare of the crew; but at the same time the evidence that was given before them clearly proved that occasionally vessels did go to sea undermanned. The Committee found that in 145 cases in which the question of undermanning had been raised at wreck inquiries between 1878 and 1894, 69 ships—45 steamers and 24 sailing vessels—had been in such a condition; and they reported, therefore, that undermanning should by legislation be embodied in the law authorising the detention of unseaworthy vessels. This view was shared by all the best ship-owners, who were as anxious as were the Board of Trade that no opportunity should be afforded of omitting precautions for ensuring the safety of their crews. So far, therefore, by the introduction of this Bill, they were merely giving effect to an almost unanimous desire, and it was not until they came to the question of the manner in which the remedy should be applied that any difference of opinion was expressed. It was proposed by this Bill to leave the question of what constituted undermanning to the detaining officers of the Board of Trade, who would be guided by instructions furnished by that Department. There was, however, another course recommended in some quarters, and that was to embody in this Bill a definite manning scale, which should be applied uniformly to all ships, a manning scale based upon tonnage. He did not think there was the smallest doubt that if it were practically possible to frame such a scale, which would allow for all the different conditions that had to be taken into account in estimating the adequacy of a crew, it would be by far the most convenient method to adopt; but after considerable discussion and consideration the Board of Trade, as at present advised, had come to the conclusion that the framing of such a scale was not practicable, for it was not only upon the tonnage and upon the rig of a vessel that an estimate of her crew must be based, but also upon many varying conditions, such as the nature of her cargo, the length and nature of her voyage, the season of the year, and the extent to which labour-saving appliances were available. All these things had to be taken into account, and, therefore, the Board of Trade thought it better to leave the question to experienced officers of the Board of Trade, who would be able to judge every case upon its merits, and to use their discretion in the matter, than to attempt to formulate a scale which would become stereotyped by Act of Parliament. Moreover, before issuing the instructions, the Board of Trade would of course consult those who were interested in the shipping trade with regard to them. These instructions could be modified or altered as might appear necessary in the light of experience. A hard and fast manning scale was once attempted by some mutual insurance societies, but it had to be abandoned on account of its want of elasticity. He need hardly remind the House that the detention officers of the Board of Trade were practical men of great experience, and the owner of a ship that had been wrongfully detained would always have the fullest opportunity of obtaining damages and costs against the Department. Such were the provisions of this small Measure, and he hoped that it would commend itself to the House, and that their Lordships would consent to give it a Second Reading.

Read 2^a (according to Order), and committed to a Committee of the whole House on Friday next.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

Viscount CROSS: There is no urgent business on the Paper for Thursday, and I understand that it would be agreeable to both sides of the House that we should not meet on that day. I therefore move that the House at its rising do adjourn until Friday.

Motion agreed to.

House adjourned at Twenty minutes past Seven o'clock, to Friday next, a Quarter past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Tuesday, 29th June 1897.

QUESTIONS.

BROMPTON CEMETERY.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucester, Forest of Dean): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether there will be any objection to give a Return of the number of bodies interred in Brompton Cemetery up to the present time?

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY, Lancashire, Blackpool): There will be no objection, I think, to this Return being granted.

*SIR C. DILKE: How shall we obtain it? Shall I move for it?

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY: I will undertake to present it myself.

DARTMOOR PRISON WARDERS.

MR. H. C. F. LUTTRELL (Devon, Tavistock): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether, in the case of the two Principal Warders Wainwright and Lord, whose deaths have lately occurred at Dartmoor Prison after periods of 25 and 30 years' service, the money which on the principle of deferred pay these officers contributed to the pension fund will be refunded to their families; and, if he will take into consideration the sad circumstances caused to their families and, if possible, alleviate them?

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY: I am afraid the principle of deferred pay is not recognised by the Superannuation Acts, and no contributions are made by prison officers towards pension from their pay. I deeply regret the circumstances in which the families of these two warders have been left, and am sorry to say there are other cases like theirs; but there is no fund at my disposal out of which it would be possible to relieve them.

MR. LUTTRELL: May I ask the right hon. Gentleman whether, in the sad circumstances in which the Wainwright family are placed, he can lay the matter before the Treasury?

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY: I understand that the Treasury have done all in their power in the matter, but as I have already informed the hon. Member there is no public fund out of which relief in such cases can be given.

DEATH DUTIES (NEW SOUTH WALES).

MR. ROBERT COX (Edinburgh, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies if he intends to take steps to induce the Government of New South Wales to bring itself within the scope of Section 20 of the Finance Act, 1894, so that the payment of Death Duties to Her Majesty's Government and to the Government of New South Wales by the representatives of persons domiciled in this country and dying possessed of property in New South Wales may be put an end to; and, if so, will he endeavour to make any such agreement retro-active?

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.): The matter is entirely one for the Government and Legislature of New South Wales, and I should not feel justified in interfering in any way with their discretion in regard to it.

MR. COX asked whether the right hon. Gentleman could indicate in what way the Government of New South Wales might be approached on the matter?

MR. CHAMBERLAIN: I cannot. I must point out to my hon. Friend that we have given self-government to these Colonies, and we must take the consequences. I cannot officially offer my hon. Friend any advice, but I suppose that the Government of New South Wales can be approached like any other free Government, and it so happens that the Prime Minister of New South Wales is at present in this country.

POST OFFICE ESTABLISHMENTS.

GENERAL GOLDSWORTHY (Hammersmith): On behalf of the hon. Member for Wandsworth (Mr. HENRY KIMBER) I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, with reference to the recommendations of the Tweedmouth Committee that auxiliary postmen, working five hours daily, should receive boot allowance, sick pay, and holidays, which were adopted by the Treasury, whether the Postmaster General is aware that several auxiliary postmen in Tooting, who are performing an equivalent to five hours' duty daily, *i.e.*, two deliveries and a collection, and are paid for five hours, have nevertheless been refused the concessions recommended by the Report, and have been asked to refund the boot allowance already paid them on 1st May last; and on what grounds these men were first paid such allowance, and are now asked to refund it; and, whether the Postmaster General is aware that the established duties still range over a period of 15 hours daily.

THE SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. R. W. HANBURY, Preston): The auxiliary postmen at Tooting, to whom the hon. Member refers, do not work five hours a day, and are therefore not entitled to the privileges of boot allowance, sick pay, and holidays. The payment which they received in respect of boot allowance was made under a misapprehension by the local postmaster, and there was no alternative but to call upon the men to refund it. The Postmaster General is aware that some of the established duties at Tooting range over a period of 15 hours a day. At present this is unavoidable, but whenever opportunity offers the period will be considered. As, however, these men live close to their work they have practically the nine hours of unbroken rest, which the Tweedmouth Committee recommended.

GENERAL REGISTER HOUSE, EDINBURGH.

MR. ROBERT COX: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether the vacancy in the staff of the Deeds Office, Her Majesty's General Register House, Edinburgh, will be filled up in terms of the Minute issued by Her Majesty's Secretary for Scotland, and dated 14th September 1893, or on the recommendation of the Deputy Clerk Register; or will the appointment, as has hitherto been the case, be confined strictly to the Office, which means the promotion of one of the engrossing clerks to the staff?

*THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire): The appointment referred to by the hon. Member will be made in accordance with the "conditions of admission" stated in Article IV. of the Minute issued by the Secretary for Scotland on 14th September 1893. I may add that this is the first vacancy in the staff of the Office of Deeds since the psssing of the Minute, and the Secretary for Scotland does not feel justified therefore in departing from the conditions laid down therein by his predecessor.

IRISH JUDICIARY.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): I beg to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer to what fund have the sums, saved by the abolition, irrespective of the three judgeships now vacant, since 1877 of the offices of a Chief Justiceship of the Common Pleas in Ireland, with an annual salary of £4,600, of two puisne Judgeships and one land Judgeship, each with an annual salary of £3,500, and of a Judgeship of the Court of Admiralty, with an annual salary of £2,500, been appropriated; and what has been the amount of the capital sum saved by the abolition of these offices, up to the present time?

THE HON. MEMBER also asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) to what fund has the sum saved by the reduction in the number of the Irish County Court Judges, under the provisions of the County Court (Ireland) Act, 1877, been appropriated; and what has been the amount of the capital sum saved up to the present time by the reduction in the number of Irish County Court Judges; (2) whether the reduction in the number of the members of the Irish judiciary effected since 1877 has been accompanied with a corresponding, or any, reduction in the scale of court fees; and whether the reduced expenditure on the Irish judicial establishments has lessened in any, and, if so, what manner, the expenses of litigants?

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bristol, W.): I will answer the hon. Member's three questions together. Concurrently with the abolition of the Judgeships mentioned, the judicial offices of the Land Commissioners have been created, and the amount of their salaries has exceeded those of the abolished Judges. There has been no saving. [*Cries of* "Oh!"] I am stating the facts. Similarly the reduction of the judicial staff of the County Courts under the Act of 1877 was part of a larger scheme, which imposed on the votes of Parliament the salaries and expenses of the clerks of the Crown and peace. The result has been a substantial and growing excess of public cost, after making full allowance for the receipts from Court fees payable under the Act. On the passing of the Judicature Act, 1877, new tables of fees were issued, which in many cases reduced the amount payable by the suitor. The result has been that the total amount of fees paid, which was £42,422 in the year of the passing of the Act, has now fallen to £34,769.

Mr. MacNEILL asked whether the right hon. Gentleman would say to what special fund the saving from these Judgeships had been allocated. Was it not the fact that the sum payable to the Land Commissioners was charged in the Estimates for the year, whereas the salaries of the Judges were charged upon the Consolidated Fund? What he wanted to know was where the Jubilee the money had gone to? [*Laughter.*]

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER: What is saved under one head has been spent under another.

AGRICULTURAL RATING ACT.

Sir THOMAS ESMONDE (Kerry, W.): I beg to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is being done with Ireland's equivalent grant, under the Agricultural Rating Act, now two years unpaid; what is the gross amount of the fund, and what interest is paid by the Treasury upon it; and whether it will be made available for its original purpose this year!

The CHIEF SECRETARY for IRELAND (Mr. Gerald Balfour, Leeds, Central:) With the permission of the House, I will reply to this question. The sums payable to Ireland under the Local Taxation (Ireland) Estate Duty Act, 1896, as the equivalent of the sums payable under the Agricultural Land Rating Act, 1896, have been paid into the Local Taxation (Ireland) Account, in accordance with the directions contained in the first-mentioned Act. The aggregate transfers to date are in respect of the year 1896–97, £74,969; and in respect of the year 1897–98, £24,099. The Treasury do not pay interest upon this fund. But in view of the necessity which has arisen to abandon the allocation this year of the money in question, the Bank of Ireland have recently, at the request of the Irish Government, consented to transfer the money into a separate account, upon which deposit rates of interest will be allowed. It is not possible to allocate the money this year.

Sir T. ESMONDE asked what was the amount of the separate fund?

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: For the year 1896–97 it was £74,969, while for the year 1897–98 it is £24,099.

Mr. J. DILLON (Mayo, E.,) asked whether it was to be understood that the Government had finally decided to refuse to make up to Ireland her proper share of the fund.

*Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. The hon. Member's Question does not arise out of the right hon. Gentleman's answer.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER: Perhaps I may be allowed to say that of course the £74,969 was paid for the year ending Lady Day last. None of it has been paid during the course of the present year.

LUNACY (IRELAND).

Mr. J. DILLON: On behalf of the hon. Member for South Galway (Mr. D. Sheehy) I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, when the Report for 1896 of the Inspectors of Lunatics for Ireland will be presented to Parliament; and if he can explain why it has not been placed upon the Table before the consideration of the Irish Estimates?

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: It has not been found practicable, hitherto, to present this Annual Report to Parliament earlier than July or August. The Report for 1896 will, it is expected, be ready for presentation about the middle of next month.

INCORPORATED LAW SOCIETY.

*Mr. Serjeant HEMPHILL (Tyrone, N.): I beg to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether it is by a Supplementary Estimate, or a Clause in the Finance Bill, that the resolution of this House of the 11th May last, as to a grant out of the public funds to the Incorporated Law Society of England, is to be carried into effect?

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER: A Supplementary Estimate will be introduced.

GARVAGH ESTATE, CO. CAVAN.

MR. S. YOUNG (Cavan, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland (1) whether he is aware that tenants on the Garvagh estate, county Cavan, who were forced by legal proceedings to pay two years' rent and costs last year and who have since served notices to have fair rents fixed, were again compelled under threat of legal proceedings to pay two years' rent this year; (2) whether he is aware that the practice has become general in county Cavan when tenants serve notices to have fair rents fixed to receive threatening letters calling on them to pay up all arrears, and thus intimidate others from going into court; and (3) whether he can take any action in the matter?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I have no knowledge of the facts alleged in the first and second paragraphs, nor are the local police aware of any case such as described in the Question.

LABOURERS' DWELLINGS (IRELAND).

MR. YOUNG: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Local Government Board propose to use pressure on the Cootehill Town Commissioners to induce them to carry out a scheme for the building of labourers' and artisans' dwellings within the township, the necessity of which has been proved by the medical sanitary officer and others?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: The Local Government Board have no power to compel the Town Commissioners to carry out schemes for building labourers' and artisans' dwellings. I may add I am informed that there are a large number of vacant houses in Cootehill suitable for labourers or artisans at moderate rents, and while this accommodation is available the Town Commissioners have not thought fit to carry out a scheme for providing dwellings under the Housing of the Working Classes Act.

NAVY PENSION (CRIMEAN VETERAN, OWEN SMITH).

MR. YOUNG: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty whether he has recently received an application for a pension from a Crimean veteran, named Owen Smith, of Bailieboro, county Cavan; whether he is aware that this man was discharged as an invalid after a severe fever in the Crimea, and certified twelve months later as being unfit for further service; that the man got no pension or allowance; and that his sight, which failed while in the service, is now almost gone; and, considering the special circumstances of his case, that his father was wounded in the battle of Waterloo, that his brother served in the 59th Regiment and died at Hong Kong in 1851, and that his two sons are at present in the Army, he will recommend Her Majesty to grant him a Jubilee pension, and thus keep him from becoming a pauper in the Bailieboro Union workhouse?

THE CIVIL LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.): No such application has been received at the Admiralty. I am forwarding a form of application to the hon. Member, which I would ask him to be good enough to have filled in by Owen Smith, whose case shall then be considered.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE (IRISH ESTIMATES).

MR. T. LOUGH (Islington, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether the Returns of Revenue and Expenditure granted in continuation of Parliamentary Papers, Nos. 336 and 337, of Session 1896, will be furnished to the House before the discussion of Irish Estimates is proceeded with?

MR. HANBURY: The completion of the Return in continuation of No. 337 depends upon the completion of the Return in continuation of No. 336, and the latter cannot be completed until the actual receipts and expenditure of all the different Departments concerned have been ascertained. The last similar Return was completed and presented on the 8th August, and its predecessor on the 21st August. Owing to the large number of outstanding accounts of sub-accounting officers, many of the Departments have not as yet been able to send in their figures. I will endeavour to expedite them as much as possible, but as the hon. Member will see, I cannot promise the Returns before the beginning of August.

IRISH LAND COMMISSION.

Mr. JAMES DALY (Monaghan, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can give the number of cases the Chief Land Commissioners at Monaghan recently lowered or raised the rents respectively fixed by the Sub-Commissioners who heard the evidence and inspected the farms; whether he can state if two Court valuers in every case valued the farms for the Chief Land Commissioners, and the rent in every case was fixed on the return given by the Court valuers; and whether he can say if the Court valuers in any of these cases heard the evidence given on behalf of landlord and tenant?

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: There were 29 appeals heard at the recent sitting of the Land Commission Court of Appeal at Monaghan. In eight of these cases the judicial rents fixed by the Sub-Commissioners were increased on appeal, while in one case the judicial rent was reduced; in seven cases the orders of the Sub-Commissioners were affirmed; and in 13 cases the Court reserved judgment. In all the 29 cases heard, the holdings were visited by two Court valuers. In nine cases (which number includes six cases affirmed) the judicial rent fixed on appeal are of the amount which was, in the estimation of the Court valuers, the fair rent of the holding. In no case do the Court valuers hear the evidence given on behalf of either the landlord or tenant. The decisions were arrived at by the Court in each case after hearing the evidence offered by each party, and having before them the reports made by the Court valuers.

ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY.

Mr. DALY: I beg to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he can say to what purpose the money saved by the reduction of the police force in Ireland will be applied?

Mr. Hanbury.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER: The net estimate for the Royal Irish Constabulary for the current year only shows a saving as compared with the previous year. It is higher than any other year since 1886–87. Of course any moneys saved would not be issued from the Exchequer; but any such saving will, I am afraid, be much more than absorbed by the general increase of expenditure on Irish local purposes.

IRISH MAIL SERVICE.

Mr. DALY: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he is aware that letters posted in Manchester and sent viâ Dublin reach Carrickmacross, Ballybay, and Castleblaney about 10 o'clock the following morning, and if sent viâ Belfast do not reach towns mentioned until about 6 p.m.; whether he i saware that the sending of letters viâ Belfast instead of Dublin is a great inconvenience to dealers; and, if he will direct that letters in future be sent viâ Dublin for above towns?

Mr. HANBURY: Letters for Carrickmacross, Ballybay, and Castleblaney posted at Manchester before 9.30 p.m. are forwarded viâ Dublin and reach their destination about 10 a.m. the following morning. It is only letters posted too late for the Dublin Mail which are forwarded viâ Stranraer and Belfast, and some of these, at any rate, obtain a distinct advantage, while none of them suffer any disadvantage from being so forwarded.

Mr. DALY: At what hour does this mail leave Stranraer?

Mr. HANBURY: That is no part of the hon. Member's question on the paper. If he will put his question upon the paper I will ascertain for him.

Mr. D. MACALEESE (Monaghan, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, if it has been brought to his notice that recent changes made in the carriage of mails between Monaghan and Ballybay have worked out much to the disadvantage of residents in the sub-districts; is he aware that letters posted at Dunraymond remain 24 hours before being dispatched; and, will he either revert to the former practice or devise a new scheme by which letters may be received and replied to within reasonable limits of time?

MR. HANBURY: Dunraymond, a small place for which there are on an average only six or seven letters a day, is on the route which was formerly taken by the mail car from Monaghan to Ballybay and Castleblaney, and in that position enjoyed the advantage of an early delivery in the morning and a late despatch at night. With a view to an acceleration of the service to Castleblaney and other places in the neighbourhood, a fresh route was recently adopted for the mail car, and Dunraymond lost the advantage which it had previously enjoyed from the fact of its being upon the road traversed by the mail car. The arrangement now made for Dunraymond provides for a delivery of the letters in the morning by a postman on foot, but the cost of maintaining a collection in the evening did not appear to be warranted. Further enquiry shall, however, be made in order to ascertain whether some interval for reply cannot be afforded.

POSTAL FACILITIES (CASTLEBLANEY).

MR. DALY: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he is aware that an influentially signed memorial has been sent to the Postmaster General requesting the establishment of a post office at the house of Mr. Peter Freeman, Drummullord, Castleblaney; and whether he will grant the wish of the memorialists?

MR. HANBURY: The memorial referred to has been received, and the matter is now under enquiry. The result shall be communicated to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

METRIC SYSTEM.

MR. DALY: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade (1) whether he can say if the Weights and Measures (Metric System) Bill applies to Ireland; and (2) if so, will it be compulsory on traders to buy and sell by the metric system if passed into Law?

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. RITCHIE, Croydon): The answer to the first part of the question is, Yes; to the second, No. The Bill does apply to Ireland, but it is entirely optional.

ASSAULT CASE, AUGHNACLOY (IRELAND).

MR. MACALEESE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, what steps have been taken to bring to justice the persons who committed an aggravated assault upon a man named M'Quade, beside the police barrack at Aughnacloy, on the 15th of May last, whose life was for some time in danger; did M'Quade give the names of his assailants to the police; and, were any arrests made?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: M'Quade's life was not endangered by the injury he received on the occasion referred to. He summoned two persons for the assault, one of whom was fined, and the case against the other was dismissed. M'Quade gave the police the name of the person who struck him, but there was a conflict of testimony between him and his brother as to the man's identity. The person convicted was proved to be the offender.

LOCAL TAXATION (IRELAND).

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland (1) at what figure does the Guarantee Fund of the Irish Land Act of 1894 now stand; (2) what interest is paid by the Treasury upon it; (3) how much of it has been spent since its formation; (4) whether it will be immediately applied as originally intended for the relief of local taxation; and (5) whether the £40,000 due to Ireland under this head will be similarly applied this year?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I assume that the hon. Member refers to the Reserve Fund, which, consisting of five annual instalments of the Exchequer contributions of £40,000, forms part of the cash portion of the Guarantee Fund. The required instalments were paid by the close of 1895-96, and were duly invested in Consols, which now amount (with the investment of the interest) to £219,000. The Reserve Fund has not been drawn upon. The inquiry in paragraph four appears to have been made under a misapprehension. It was not intended to apply the £200,000 in aid of local taxation. It was to remain as a reserve fund. It is hoped that the regulations for the distribution of the

£40,000 a year now set free will be completed at an early date, whereupon the allocation of the money will be at once proceeded with.

POST OFFICE CYCLES.

MR. HENNIKER HEATON, (Canterbury): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, what number of bicycles are in use or have been ordered by the Postal and Telegraph Department up to date; whether any tricycles have been ordered; and whether he has considered the policy of ordering tricycles for use by postmen in some parts of the country?

MR. HANBURY: For postal purposes, arrangements have existed for many years past under which, where the conditions are suitable, allowances are made to Rural Postmen for finding and employing both bicycles and tricycles. The exact number in use for postal purposes cannot be stated without obtaining reports from all parts of the country, but it is not very large. 100 bicycles have been recently purchased by the Department and issued to Telegraph messengers under the arrangement explained in reply to the Question asked by the hon. Member on the 5th March last. A number of bicycles are also used by Telegraph Messengers under the allowance system referred to in the same reply; And the Department is watching the result of the two experiments, with a view to ascertaining which is the more desirable for permanent adoption. The Postmaster General has every desire to encourage the use of bicycles and tricycles in those parts of the country where the roads are suitable for their use. But he believes that it is on the whole better that the postmen who use the machines should have an interest in them, and that the present system, therefore, of granting allowances for their use is preferable in the case of postmen, to the purchase by the Department of the machines.

POSTAL UNION CONGRESS.

MR. HENNIKER HEATON: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he is now in a position to state the result of the Postal Union Congress or Convention at Washington; whether any, and what, important decisions have been arrived at; and, briefly, what are the principal changes or reforms carried?

MR. HANBURY: The Postmaster General has not yet received the report of the British delegates at the recent Postal Union Congress at Washington, which only closed on Tuesday, the 15th inst. The hon. Member is probably aware that those of the British delegates who returned to this country immediately after the conclusion of the Congress only reached London last Thursday.

MR. HENNIKER HEATON asked whether the right hon. Gentleman was aware that the Postal Union Congress closed its proceedings on the 3rd or 4th of June, and that a full report of the proceedings, or rather of the results, appeared in three of the principal New York papers on the 10th of June, and had been since published in other papers.

MR. HANBURY said the only official information he had received from the Post Office was contained in his answer to the Question.

COLONIAL MILITARY PRISONS (CORPORAL PUNISHMENT).

MR. JOSEPH A. PEASE (Northumberland, Tyneside): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War how many prisoners in the military prisons in the Colonies have received corporal punishment during the last six years; and, how many, if any, have received corporal punishment in the United Kingdom or Colonies on more than one occasion during the same period?

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): Eighty-two prisoners in military prisons abroad received corporal punishment during the last six years. During the same period one prisoner in the military prisons at home was twice corporally punished. Returns on this point from prisons abroad have not yet been received.

PRISONS AND CONVICT ESTABLISHMENTS (CORPORAL PUNISHMENT).

MR. JOSEPH A. PEASE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he could state how many prisoners in the local prisons and convict establishments of the United Kingdom have received corporal punishment on more than one occasion during the past six years; and if there are any who have received such punishment on more than two occasions during the same period?

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY: During this period forty-four prisoners in local prisons and twenty in convict prisons have received corporal punishment twice; six in local prisons and seven in convict prisons have received corporal punishment more than twice.

QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE.

MR. LOUGH: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty how many Members of the House of Commons and how many passengers altogether were on board the steamship *Campania* at the Naval Review; at whose cost was the luncheon provided; was the allocation of berths to Members who stayed on board all night by ballot; if not, how was it made; did the Admiralty arrange that the *Campania* should remain at anchor instead of going down the line of ships during the illuminations, or bringing those on board to the quay the following morning; and whether, under the circumstances, any portion of the charge made to Members will be refunded?

MR. CHARLES SHAW (Stafford): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty (1) whether he is aware that there were 1,800 persons on board the steamship *Campania* on the occasion of the Naval Review, of whom only 800 were either Members of this House or their invited guests; (2) whether he can explain how this overcrowding arose, having regard to the statement that the *Campania* would be reserved for the use and convenience of the House; (3) If he can inform the House whether the sum of £5. 5s. was the charge made to all who stayed on board over Saturday night; (4) into whose credit the aggregate sum so netted has been paid, and its ultimate destination; and (5) whether it is the intention of the Government to place on the Estimates any Vote for expenses of the illuminations for the Review, upon which Members of this House can express their opinions?

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: Invitations to the *Campania* issued by the Admiralty were limited to 1,600, full accommodation for which number was guaranteed by the company; 1,082 of these invitations were issued to Members and their friends. The ship was originally intended for the Lords and the Commons, but when the decision was arrived at to take the Lords in the *Danube*, it was necessary to redistribute the available space. The cost of the luncheon was defrayed by the Admiralty. The five guineas was the company's charge direct to the visitors for the extra accommodation provided outside the Admiralty contract. The allocation of berths was made at the Admiralty. It was stated by my hon. Friend the Financial Secretary of the Admiralty that the *Campania*, after—

> "landing those who desire to return to town on Saturday afternoon, will leave Southampton Dock not later than 7 o'clock p.m., and take up a position in the Solent."

I am making inquiries as to the number of passengers embarked on board the *Campania*, and would ask hon. Members to postpone their questions on this point until Friday.

MR. J. H. DALZIEL (Kirkcaldy Burghs): May I ask the hon. Gentleman whether the 1,000 tickets distributed to Members were distributed on the basis of one to each Member?

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: They were distributed on the basis announced by my hon. Friend the Financial Secretary—one to each Member, and each Member had the opportunity of having one for a friend also.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): May I ask who were the 518 guests who were not Members of this House?

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: They were some of the Colonial and Indian guests—["hear, hear!"]—and a certain number of distinguished naval officers, including former Lords of the Admiralty; and a certain number of tickets were distributed to members of the Admiralty Office.

MR. C. SHAW said no answer had been given to the last paragraph of his Question—whether the Government intended to place on the Estimates any Vote for expenses of the review illuminations upon which Members of the House could express their opinion.

Mr. LOUGH: Perhaps the hon. Gentleman will say at the same time why the *Campania* did not come back to dock on Sunday morning, instead of the passengers being put on a small tug in the rain.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: If the hon. Member will be good enough to turn to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Financial Secretary in announcing the arrangements, he will see that the programme then announced was exactly carried out.

Mr. E. ROBERTSON (Dundee) asked whether there would be any opportunity of criticising the arrangements in connection with the Naval Review.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I am not aware of any opportunity of discussing this question on any Vote which remains to be passed.

Mr. DALZIEL: Is it not a fact that the Admiralty are responsible, and can there be any objection to its being raised on the Admiralty Vote?

An hon. Member: On the Appropriation Bill?

DESTRUCTION OF CROPS, ESSEX.

Major RASCH (Essex, S.E.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture, whether, in consequence of the almost total loss of every kind of crop, over an area of 70 square miles in Essex on Thursday last, the Government will consider the possibility of sending a commissioner to report as to the necessity of some exceptional measure of relief?

The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.): I requested my hon. Friend yesterday to put this Question to the Minister of Agriculture, but my right hon. Friend the Minister of Agriculture has not yet returned from his official duties elsewhere, and I have not had an opportunity of consulting him on the matter. In the meanwhile I can only say that Her Majesty's Government do feel most deeply the gravity of the loss which has fallen upon a large part—a considerable part—of the county of Essex; and although I should not be justified, I think, in holding out any hopes of Government assistance—at all events, without very much fuller consideration than I have yet been able to give to the question—I can assure my hon. Friend that the subject of his Question shall receive the most sympathetic consideration of myself and my colleagues. ["Hear, hear!"]

Mr. KEARLEY (Devonport): Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that a part of the county of South Bucks has been just as severely visited? ["Hear, hear!" "Oh!" *and laughter.*]

*Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order! That is an entirely different question.

NATIONAL SCHOOL TEACHERS' PENSIONS, IRELAND.

Mr. DALY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, whether he has received resolutions from the National School Teachers' Association, Ballyboy, demanding payment direct to them of the residual school grant admitted to be due by the Treasury, and protesting against any portion of these arrears (due to the teachers) being allocated to the pension fund; and also protesting against the action of the Government to further attempt to reduce their salaries by increased stoppages to the pension fund; and, whether, as the teachers have performed their part in contributing to the pension fund, the Treasury will make good any further deficiencies caused by the miscalculations of the actuaries of the Government?

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: The resolutions referred to have been received. I have nothing to add to my reply to the question addressed to me on the 21st inst. by the hon. Member for Mid Cork on this subject.

SCIENCE AND ART GRANTS.

Mr. JAMES STUART (Shoreditch, Hoxton): I beg to ask the Vice President of the Committee of Council on Education, in view of the great public interest shown in the Report of the Departmental Committee on the distribution of science and art grant, whether he will publish the evidence of the witnesses, as well as such memoranda and other documents on which presumably the Report is based?

The VICE PRESIDENT of the COUNCIL (Sir John Gorst, Cambridge University): Yes; the statements oral and written made to the Committee shall be laid on the Table. The Committee had also before it the evidence taken by the Royal Commission on Secondary Education, but I do not think that evidence need be reprinted.

SCOTTISH PRISON OFFICIALS.

*MR. THOMAS HEDDERWICK (Wick Burghs): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate (1) whether an inquiry into the Scottish prison system was held in the months of October and November last by a Departmental Committee, composed of three of the chief Scottish prison officials; and (2) whether in the course of such inquiry the Committee visited several of the Scottish prisons and received evidence both in regard to prison hospital arrangements and the association of prisoners without supervision; and, if so, whether he will call for the Proceedings and the Report of the Committee, together with all the papers relative thereto, including the chaplains' and medical officers' reports upon the above-mentioned subjects.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE: There was no Departmental Committee as is suggested by the first paragraph of the Question. I am informed by the Prison Commissioners for Scotland, that in accordance with ordinary official practice inquiries were made by a private Committee, consisting of a prison inspector and two governors, who were instructed by the Prison Commissioners to inquire and report to them on certain matters connected with the prison service. I will take this opportunity of correcting the reply given by me on the 24th May last, owing to error in the information given me by saying that evidence was tendered to these gentlemen by some medical officers in regard to the treatment of sick prisoners. I may add that Reports by Committees of the above nature are regarded as confidential documents for the use of the Prison Commissioners who are, of course, responsible to the Secretary for Scotland.

CHIN HILLS MILITARY OPERATIONS (MEDAL).

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether he can state if a medal was granted for all the operations in the Chin Hills in 1891 and 1892; and whether he is aware that many who were engaged have not received the medal?

MR. BRODRICK: A medal was granted, but it was not awarded to columns which met with no opposition.

WRECK (INDIAN TROOPSHIP) "WARREN HASTINGS."

CAPTAIN NORTON: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether free kits have been issued to the soldiers who behaved so well on board the *Warren Hastings*, but who lost their kits and all their other belongings?

MR. BRODRICK: Yes, Sir. Free kits have been issued, and compensation given for private property lost. A special allowance of £1,000 has been distributed in this manner.

DEATH DUTIES (AGRICULTURAL RATES).

CAPTAIN PRETYMAN (Suffolk, Woodbridge): I beg to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, on what system are deductions for repairs now allowed in assessing the annual value of agricultural estates for payment of Death Duties; and can he give the House any figures illustrating the present practice of the Revenue Department in making such allowances?

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER: In assessing an agricultural estate for payment of Estate Duty, the cost of repairs is allowed as a deduction from the gross annual value of the estate. The amount on this account is fixed in each case by agreement between the accounting parties and the Inland Revenue authorities. I have looked into a number of cases, as many as 29, of agricultural estates of an annual value varying from £120 to nearly £30,000, and I find that the deductions which have been allowed for repairs range from 20 per cent. downwards. The cases in which more than 10 per cent. was allowed numbered 44 per cent of the whole, and in 72 per cent. of the cases more than 7½ per cent. was allowed. Of course, the allowances cannot exceed actual expenditure claimed for; but the above figures show that where a claim for these deductions is fairly made it is the practice to allow it.

FOOTPATHS IN HYDE PARK AND ST. JAMES'S PARK.

*SIR HENRY FOWLER (Wolverhampton, E.): I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works whether it is possible to make the footpath from Hyde Park Corner to the Albert Memorial suitable for pedestrians; and, if it be, whether he will, during the autumn, take the necessary steps to make the footpaths in Hyde Park and St. James's Park as convenient for the use of the public as are the footpaths in the parks under the control of the County Council?

THE FIRST COMMISSIONER OF WORKS (Mr. AKERS-DOUGLAS, Kent, St. Augustine's): I cannot agree with the right hon. Gentleman that the path in question is unfit for pedestrians. There are, certainly, sections of the walk at present in a rough state, especially opposite the barracks, but, considering the enormous extra traffic of the last ten days, and the fact that the park has been recently used as a rest camp for 12,000 men, this is hardly to be wondered at. I will, however, take care that during the autumn special consideration shall be given to the question of the proper construction and maintenance of the paths.

*SIR H. FOWLER: May I ask the right hon. Gentleman if he recollects that he gave nearly the same answer last year to a similar question, when there had been no Jubilee festivities, and when the path, not being properly gravelled, but covered with shingle, was as inconvenient as it is to-day?

MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS: I understood that the question was directed to one portion of the park.

*SIR H. FOWLER: No; it is directed to the footpaths.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTORS.

SIR HENRY FOWLER: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Return of the Local Government Electors, ordered on 2nd March, will be laid upon the Table?

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY: This Return was presented yesterday.

ALLOTMENTS IN IRELAND.

MR. J. J. SHEE (Waterford, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will, in order to give effect to the unanimous Resolution of the House of Commons of the 13th April 1894, introduce in this Session a short Measure to give boards of guardians in Ireland power to provide allotments of land similar to the power possessed by parish councils in England without the necessity of building houses.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I would refer the hon. Member to my reply to the Question addressed to me on this subject by the hon. Member for South Mayo on the 8th February last. To that reply I have nothing to add, except to say that in view of the legislation promised for next year it would be obviously inadvisable to introduce in the meantime a Measure such as that proposed.

DEPORTATION OF PAUPERS.

MR. DALY: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury if he can say if it is the intention of the Government to introduce a Bill this Session to prevent the deportation of paupers from England, Scotland and Wales to Ireland.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: The subject, in my opinion, is well worthy of consideration, but I cannot hold out any hope of bringing in a Bill dealing with the matter in the present Session.

MR. DALY: If a private Member introduce a Bill on the subject, will the right hon. Gentleman help to get it passed?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: Promises in favour of private Members' Bills are not promises which are readily made by the Leader of the House if he wants to lead a quiet life. [*Laughter.*] In any case I am afraid I could not promise anything in regard to a Bill, the terms of which are not before me.

FINANCIAL RELATIONS (GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND).

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury, inasmuch as there appears to be some doubt as to whether any new Commission will be formed to enquire into the Financial Relations between Great Britain and Ireland, what steps the Government intend to take with reference to the finding of the Commission which has already examined into the question and reported upon it?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: The views of the Government with regard to the report made by the recent Financial Commission have already been very fully laid before the House by my right hon. Friends the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the First Lord of the Admiralty in the course of the Debate specially devoted to this subject.

GOVERNMENT SERVANTS (MINIMUM WAGES).

CAPTAIN NORTON: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he can now state when, and in connection with which Vote, it is proposed to make the promised statement with reference to the minimum wage of Government employés?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: I am not sure that my memory quite carries any pledge such as that referred to by the hon. Gentleman in his question; but undoubtedly there will be an opportunity for discussion of the subject on the Ordnance Vote.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

SIR C. DILKE inquired what would be the business on Thursday.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: So far as has been at present fixed, the Scotch Education Bill will be the first Order on Thursday.

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

FINANCE BILL.

Considered in Committee.

[The CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS, Mr. J. W. LOWTHER, in the Chair.]

TOBACCO DUTIES.

MR. JOHN DILLON (Mayo, E.) rose to move the following clause:—

In lieu of the duties of Customs now payable on tobacco there shall, on and after the twenty-first day of May, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven, be levied and charged upon tobacco imported into Great Britain or Ireland the duties following (that is to say):—

		s.	d.
Tobacco, manufactured, viz.:			
Segars	the lb.	5	0
Cavendish or Negrohead . .	,,	4	6
Cavendish or Negrohead manufactured in bond	,,	4	0
Other manufactured tobacco	,,	4	0
Snuff containing more than 13 lbs. of moisture in every 100 lbs. weight thereof . . .	,,	3	9
Snuff not containing more than 13 lbs. of moisture in every 100 lbs. weight thereof . . .	,,	4	6
Tobacco, unmanufactured, viz.:—			
Containing 10 lbs. of moisture in every 100 lbs. weight thereof . .	,,	1	0
Containing less than 10 lbs. of moisture in every 100 lbs. weight thereof	,,	1	4

He said that the tax produced from tobacco which was a very elastic one, and which had been considerably increased in recent times, formed a very large proportion of the revenue of the country. And not only was it a chief source of revenue, but it was also one of the main incidents by which a financial grievance was inflicted both upon the people of Ireland and upon the poorer classes of this country, because there was no tax which pressed so unfairly upon the working classes as this tax upon tobacco. ["Hear, hear!"] The three taxes which pressed most unfairly upon the working classes were those upon spirits, tea, and tobacco, and while many people had no sympathy with the unfair burdens cast upon the working classes by the tax upon spirits, because they considered that was a grievance which could very easily be remedied by drinking less spirits or beer, he did not think any similar contention could be maintained in regard to the tax upon tobacco, because, while tobacco was undoubtedly one of the main luxuries of the poor in this country, it was not by any means a luxury of an objectionable or deleterious character. ["Hear, hear!"] He was therefore justified in saying that, of all the taxes known to the fiscal system of Great Britain, the tax upon tobacco was that which most unjustly pressed upon the working classes, and more especially upon the population of Ireland. The Financial Relations Return, issued in the Session of 1896, showed that the sum contributed by England to the revenue, under the head of the tobacco tax, was £8,400,000, by Scotland £1,100,000, and by Ireland £1,200,000, so that, out of a total of £10,700,000, Ireland under the tobacco tax paid one-eighth, or something between two and three times more than her fair proportion. [*Cheers.*] Now the history of the tobacco tax was a very curious one, and, when looked into carefully, the grievance which Ireland suffered under this tax would be found to be very much greater than it appeared at first sight. The tobacco tax was an old tax in the English financial system. Under Mr. Pitt's Bill of 1787 the duties were, for Spanish and Portuguese tobacco, 3s. 6d. per lb., and for tobacco from the colonies, the United States, and Ireland, 1s. 3d. per lb. Under that Bill Ireland, which was a tobacco growing country, was protected to the extent of 2s. 3d. per lb., and up to 1832 tobacco was profitably grown in Ireland, and Ireland enjoyed great advantages from the protection afforded her. In 1827 the duties upon foreign unmanufactured tobacco was 3s. per lb.; upon tobacco from the British possessions, 2s. 9d. per lb.; and upon manufactured tobacco and cigars, 9s. per lb. The production under the tax on an average for the next five years was, for Great Britain, £2,250,000, and for Ireland £600,000, so that for that period Ireland paid more than one-fourth of the amount paid by Great Britain. In 1834 a Commission of Inquiry was appointed by the Excise, which sat for a considerable time and inquired into the whole question of the Excise duties, and into the question of the duties on tobacco, and that Commission recommended a considerable reduction of the tobacco tax, and in a work by Sir Henry Parnell, which was then considered of great authority, he also advocated a reduction of the tax upon tobacco. In 1842 Sir Robert Peel equalised the duty on tobacco from all parts of the world. In 1863 Mr. Gladstone reduced the duty on manufactured tobacco, and increased that on unmanufactured tobacco. Colonel Dunn, Member for Queen's County, then spokesman for the Irish Party, protested against the alteration on behalf of the Irish people, because it bore unjustly upon them, and on account of the injury it would inflict upon what was then an important branch of industry in Ireland. It was advocated on the ground of Free Trade, but Colonel Dunn pointed out that that argument could not be maintained. Free trade in tobacco was, he said, entirely non-existent, inasmuch as the growth of tobacco had been prohibited in Ireland. Colonel Dunn said tobacco had been grown successfully in Ireland, and when the Act was passed to prohibit its growth the Government purchased the year's crop for £30,000. If the crop were then worth £300,000, it was probable that the tobacco industry would now have been a valuable one in Ireland. By the revision of the tobacco duty in 1863 an additional burden of £100,000 a year was imposed upon Ireland. This was another instance to be added to the many that had already been given of the unfair increase of the taxation of Ireland between 1850 and 1870. In 1877 Sir S. Northcote added another 4d. to the duty on unmanufactured tobaccos, and it was on that scale that the present duties stood. The proposal he had to submit was that the scale on manufactured tobacco should remain as at present, but that the duty should be reduced by 2s. in the pound on all kinds of unmanufactured tobaccos. By such a reduction they would, to a large extent, relieve the financial grievance of over-taxation under which the Irish people laboured, because it was through the instrumentality of the tobacco tax that the British Government managed to extract from the poverty of the Irish people more than their just share of contribution to the Imperial revenue. He recommended the reduction of the duty on unmanufactured tobaccos not only from the Irish point of view, but from that of the English working classes. The tobacco duty pressed unduly on the shoulders of the poorer classes. In the days of William Pitt the tax on cigars was 9s. in the pound. They were smoked by the rich. But in 1863, applying the principle of Free Trade to a case in which it had no application, the 9s. was reduced to 5s., while the tax on the tobacco used by the poorer classes was enormously increased. Mr. Ayrton, Member for the Tower Hamlets, said in the Debate in 1863 that when the growth of tobacco was beginning to flourish in Ireland it was stopped. Nothing was more illustrative or instructive in the history of the government of Ireland by England. When Ireland was allowed in 1779 to grow tobacco, the reason given was that it was

> "necessary to give every attention and encouragement to such produce and manufactures in Ireland as would not materially interfere with the commerce and interests of Great Britain."

Tobacco was really the sole luxury enjoyed by the poor in Ireland, and yet, while they had reduced to one-half the tax on the cigars of the rich, they had more than doubled the tax on the tobacco of the poor. Moreover, they had killed this industry in Ireland by refusing permission to grow tobacco there. To the poor labouring man in Ireland, and to a large extent in this country, the only solace by way of luxury which he had in the world was a pipe of tobacco, and it was for this reason that he protested against this unjust tax. He begged to move the clause.

Clause read the First time.

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bristol, W.): I hope the hon. Member will pardon me if I do not dwell at any length on his observations as to the restrictions on the growth of tobacco in Ireland. I believe in the year 1886 the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Monmouthshire gave permission for experiments to be made without restriction, and certain experiments were made, but I believe, after a year or two, they invariably failed. I can assure the hon. Member that, if at that time the experiments were not extended to Ireland, if any cases are brought under my notice where it is desirable to try them there, I shall be very ready to grant permission. I fear it will not have the effect imagined, but I say that much to show that it is my desire to treat the two countries equally in that respect. The hon. Member has not proposed to repeal the tobacco duty altogether, but only to reduce it, so that it is obvious that if any restrictions are necessary as to the growth of tobacco in this country in order to maintain the present duty, those restrictions would be equally necessary if his proposal were adopted. The argument of the hon. Member is, first, that the duty on tobacco presses more unfairly than any other tax on the working classes; and, secondly, that it is exceptionally unfair to Irishmen as being part of a general system of indirect taxation which, according to the Report of the late Financial Relations Commission, exacts a larger contribution from Ireland than is justified. The hon. Member did not, I think, produce any very strong arguments in favour of his first contention. I must say that, so long as it is necessary, as I believe it always will be, to retain indirect taxation as a part of the fiscal system of this country, I do not agree with his views as to the unfairness of a tobacco tax. ["Hear, hear!"] Perhaps I may be considered to be rather prejudiced against smoking, but I am quite prepared to admit that tobacco, although I think it a luxury, is yet more necessary to the poor, and especially to those who are ill-fed, than to those who are well fed and who have a higher position in the social scale. Therefore to that extent it does press more hardly, as all indirect taxation must press more hardly, upon the poorer classes. The general balance, I believe, is fairly set right by the system of direct taxation, and I do not think it would be easy, assuming that a certain sum is to be raised by indirect taxation, to substitute any indirect tax for the tobacco duty, which would inflict less hardship on the poorer classes. The hon. Member could not, I think, say that if this duty could be looked at entirely by itself it is specially unfair to Ireland. I find that the produce of the duty per head of the population, according to the best statistics which are at our disposal, is in England 5s. 7d., in Scotland 5s. 5d., and in Ireland 5s. 4d. I would say that I do not think that those statistics, which, of course, were used by the Financial Relations Commission, can possibly be considered final, but they were the best that could be obtained without interfering with trade between the two countries. The produce of the tax per head of the population is increasing in England, largely, I believe, owing to the greater consumption of cigarettes in this country. The duty, though high, does not check consumption in Ireland, and is not, after all, high as compared with the tax on tobacco in Ireland before the Exchequers were united. I find that before the amalgamation of the Exchequers the tobacco duty was 3s. 2d. on the pound. Of course the great bulk of the tobacco duty is paid by unmanufactured tobacco, and the result of the adoption of the hon. Member's proposal would be, I am informed, that the revenue would be reduced by about seven millions a year in order to save Ireland about £800,000. I must say that does appear to me a very wasteful method of dealing with the Irish grievance—["hear, hear!"]—and I do not think it is one which this Committee would care to support. Then, again, this seven millions would have to be found in some other way, and, as I have said, I do not believe it could be raised by any indirect tax which would press less hardly on the people. I am not prepared to find it by adding the sum of 3d. in the pound to the income tax, and therefore I am obliged to resist the proposal of the hon. Member. But if the tobacco duty were to be dealt with at all, I should have a great deal to say as to the method by which he proposes to deal with it. He took the view that the duty on unmanufactured tobacco should be reduced because that would specially relieve the poor, while the duty on manufactured tobacco should be retained because that was the luxury of the rich. Well, that is true, no doubt, of a part of the manufactured tobacco—namely, Havana cigars, which I am afraid at present are very scarce indeed, but it cannot be said to be true of a very considerable quantity of the imported manufactured tobacco. Cheap cigars come to this country from Manila, India, Ceylon, and European countries, which are certainly consumed by the poor rather than by the rich. In 1863 the relation of the duty between manufactured and unmanufactured tobaccos was fixed by Mr. Gladstone, and what was taken into consideration was this, that the duty should be so fixed as to be fair both to the foreign and the home manufacturer of tobacco. It we were to reduce the duty on unmanufactured tobacco by 2s. 2d. on the pound, leaving the duty on manufactured tobacco alone, the result would be to enable the manufacturer of cigars in this country to sell his cigars at a price which would absolutely deprive the consumer of this country of the advantage of any foreign competition in the matter of manufactured tobaccos. I represent a constituency, the city of Bristol, in which the manufacture of tobacco is a very profitable and a very great industry, and I have never heard from any of my constituents that it required the enormous amount of protection which the Amendment of the hon. Gentleman would give it against the competition of foreign cigars. In fact, if it were necessary for me to go at length into the matter, I could show that since 1863 the changes in the importation of unmanufactured tobacco have been such that the home manufacturer has been placed in a position of greater advantage over his foreign competitor than he held then. The hon. Gentleman spoke of the British and Irish manufacture of cigars as being a small matter. That is not so. It is a very large matter indeed. I am informed that an enormous quantity of tobacco is manufactured into cigars in this country, and that the total amount of cigars manufactured at home very largely exceeds the total amount of imported cigars. Unmanufactured tobacco used to be imported formerly in leaves with the stalks. It is now being imported without the stalks, which were a waste material in the manufacture, and therefore from every pound of unmanufactured tobacco imported the home manufacturer is able to obtain a larger number of cigars than he was when the stalks were imported with the leaves. There is one observation of the hon. Member with which I have some sympathy. He spoke of the high rate of duty on tobacco as compared with the value of the article. There is no doubt that the duty as compared with the value of the article is very high indeed. I have to some extent looked into this matter. At one time I was a little hopeful that I might be able to make some proposal this year in regard to it, but I found that it would require a very considerable remission of duty in order to reach the consumer at all. Tobacco is purchased by the poorer classes in very small quantities, and a mere remission of 4d. in the pound would never reach the consumer. It would be absorbed by the manufacturer and by the dealer in the article. Therefore, until the finances of the country can allow a large reduction in the duty on tobacco, it would not be wise to attempt it. But I will keep the matter before my mind, and if I find myself in a position to reduce indirect taxation tobacco is an article on which I shall look with considerable favour, and all the more because the reduction would give some relief to the country the hon. Gentleman represents. ["Hear, hear!"]

Mr. T. LOUGH (Islington, W.) said the right hon. Gentleman had stated that before the single Exchequer was established for Ireland and Great Britain, the tobacco tax in Ireland was 3s. 4d. in the pound, but the Committee should remember that the tobacco tax was at the same time 15s. in England; and the average amount per head of the inhabitants was then not more than 2s. in Ireland, while now it was 5s. 4d. That illustrated the great difficulty in the argument that was sometimes heard in regard to those indirect duties. It was assumed because the amount of duty was reduced that therefore the section of the people who pay this class of taxes was benefited. That was not always the case. The Chancellor of the Exchequer often collected a larger amount from the individual when he reduced a duty than he had collected before. When only a small quantity of tobacco was used per head in Ireland, the people spent their money on something else. For instance, they used more meat than they were able to use now. They did not export the whole meat produce from the country then as they did now. They produced their own flour and oatmeal, and they did not bring in the cheap provisions from America on which they had to subsist now. The right hon. Gentleman the Chancellor of the Exchequer alluded to the fact that the large manufacturers of tobacco in his constituency never complained of the duty on tobacco. But it must be remembered that the large manufacturers who paid large amounts of duty were interested in the maintenance of the duty for they made a profit out of the duty as well as out of the article. Therefore no argument could be adduced from the fact that the manufacturers were in favour of the duty. He agreed with the right hon. Gentleman that his hon. Friend the Member for East Mayo was taking a rather troublesome way to get a small relief to Ireland by making a proposal which would entail a great loss to the Imperial Exchequer. He was not in favour of indirect taxation, he believed that the indirect taxpayer paid more than he had a right to pay, but he could not say that the Amendment of his hon. Friend would go very far to meet the Irish financial difficulty. The hon. Gentleman referred to the fact that the working classes in Great Britain paid a large portion of those taxes, more of it was paid in Ireland in proportion to the population. In a very remarkable document furnished by Mr. Micks, the Secretary of the Congested Districts Board, it was shown that the average cost of tobacco to the people who lived in those districts in Ireland was about 1s. per week out of a total weekly expenditure of 6s. or 8s., and Mr. Micks declared that a great advantage would accrue to those people if the tobacco tax was removed, as in many cases it represented more to them than their rent. It could not be shown that in Great Britain such a large amount was spent on tobacco per head, and, therefore, the grievance of the tax was greater in Ireland than in Great Britain. To his mind the best way to proceed would be to abolish the tobacco tax altogether in Ireland. That would mean a reduction in the revenue of about one and a quarter millions, whereas if his hon. Friend's proposal was accepted, to get this relief for Ireland, would mean a loss to the revenue of 7½ millions. Besides a much stronger case could be made out for relieving Ireland than it could be found for relieving Great Britain. He knew that a prejudice existed against taking off a tax for one part of the kingdom, while leaving it in force in other parts. The argument of his hon. Friend was that there was one common purse, and that any relief that was given should be given all round. No such doctrine prevailed in the Exchequer. There was a precedent in almost every year since 1817 for some tax being taken off one part of the Kingdom and not being taken off the Kingdom altogether. In 1825 there was a tax of nearly half a million remitted in Great Britain but not in Ireland; and from that year down to 1890, continual remissions of taxation were made in Great Britain alone. Thus the difficulty with which they were now struggling was created. This year the Chancellor of the Exchequer had given £800,000 to Great Britain for education, and nothing to Ireland; and the relief for agricultural rates granted last year was not extended to Ireland. Therefore, the precedents were all in favour of giving relief to one island without giving it to the other. If that relief had in the past always been given to Great Britain alone, and not to Ireland alone, it was because there were six British representatives in the House of Commons to one Irish representative. There was a remarkable letter in *The Times* a short time ago from Mr. Mitchell Henry, recounting how, in the West of Ireland, the coarse tobacco which the peasants used to grow was seized by Revenue Officers and burnt on the spot. Of course, it would be urged that if the Tobacco Tax were remitted in Ireland and not in England, Custom House arrangements between the two countries would be necessary. But there would only have to be a Custom House on the English side, and as the examination would be for tobacco only, the cost would be small. There was no foundation for the assertion that the principle of Free Trade would be interfered with. In many parts of the Empire we had varying duties without any infringment of Free Trade. Under the present fiscal system, applying equally to both countries, the result was that Ireland was heavily taxed while Great Britain was very lightly taxed. He thought his hon. Friend who moved this Amendment would best consult the interests of his country by confining the demand for relief to Ireland alone. Indeed, the Chancellor of the Exchequer had given a very strong hint in that direction. But he should support the Amendment in any case if it were pressed to a Division.

SIR JOHN LUBBOCK (London University) said that the hon. Member was accurate in his statement that there had been a great many cases in which taxation had been reduced in Great Britain without any corresponding reduction being made in Ireland. The reason was that there had been so many taxes levied in Great Britain which were not levied in Ireland at all. From 1817 to 1821 the people of Great Britain paid on an average £20,000,000 a year in taxes which were not levied in Ireland.

MR. LOUGH: "Hear, hear!" And they ought to still. [*Laughter.*]

SIR J. LUBBOCK said that the hon. Member was a London Member. Did he think that the London people ought to help to pay £20,000,000 of taxation not levied in Ireland?

Mr. T. Lough.

MR. LOUGH: Certainly.

SIR J. LUBBOCK: Will the hon. Member tell his constituents that?

MR. LOUGH: I have done so frequently. They are better able to pay, and they are quite willing to do it. [*Laughter.*]

SIR J. LUBBOCK said that that was one of the most extraordinary statements he had ever heard. He should have thought that there was as much poverty in many parts of London as in any part of Ireland. [*Cheers.*] Since the Union £700,000,000 had been paid by this country in taxes which were not levied in Ireland at all. He did not know what would satisfy hon. Gentlemen from Ireland. [*Cheers.*] The hon. Member for West Islington complained that the recent grant for education had not been extended to Ireland. He forgot that already the Imperial Parliament paid for the education of Ireland. [*Cheers, and* Mr. LOUGH: "The Irish taxpayers pay for it."] The hon. Member now advocated the reduction of the Tobacco Duty, but in his evidence before the Royal Commission it was the remission of the Whisky Duty which the hon. Member pointed to as the salvation of Ireland. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had shown clearly that the tobacco tax did not press more heavily on the people of Ireland than on the people of Great Britain. He himself greatly doubted whether we had the real incidence of this tax; but when hon. Gentlemen opposite complained they forgot that whereas every Irishman contributed 9s. to the Imperial Exchequer, every Englishman contributed a much larger amount. In the evidence before the Commission this remarkable fact about the tobacco duty came out—that in Ireland not only did they consume nearly as much tobacco as in England, but tobacco of a better quality. The Irish also drank a better quality of tea than the English or Scotch. This seemed to show that the duties did not press unduly on them. The Chancellor of the Exchequer said that tobacco might perhaps be more necessary for a poor man who could not afford a full supply of food. But, though tobacco might give immediate satisfaction, a man who could not afford both had much better purchase good nourishing food. If the Chancellor of the Exchequer found himself in the happy position of being able to reduce indirect taxation he hoped he would lower the duty on tea rather than that on tobacco.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE (Kerry, W.) said he had found from various Returns in the Library that up to 1861 England had remitted taxation of her own amounting to 63 millions, but only £2,300,000 of Irish taxation. In 1819 the taxation per head in Ireland was 15s. 5d., and in England £3 14s. 8d. In 1889 the taxation per head in Ireland was £1 13s. 5d., whereas in England it was £2 11s. 5d. That showed that Ireland had been a source of very considerable profit to the English Exchequer. Now it was high time that some remission of Irish taxation should take place. As regarded the tobacco duty some consideration ought to be shown to Ireland, because up to 1830 they were allowed to grow their own tobacco, and it was a source of wealth to the people of the country. The Chancellor of the Exchequer doubted whether tobacco could be grown in Ireland. He could inform the right hon. Gentleman that he had himself grown tobacco in Ireland.

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER: I said it had been grown in England, but not at a profit.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE went on to say that tobacco was formerly grown in Ireland to a considerable extent, whereas it was never much grown in England. He really thought the Government ought to do something towards encouraging the revival of tobacco growing in Ireland, and he hoped the Chancellor of the Exchequer would take off the taxes upon tobacco in that country.

SIR JAMES FERGUSSON (Manchester, N.E.) demurred to the position taken up by the hon. Member for Mayo in his objections to the taxation of the working classes. It should not be forgotten that the working classes were not taxed except in their use of articles of luxury. They were exempt from every branch of direct taxation paid by the wealthier classes. Their taxation was confined to articles which they used at their discretion, so that by moderating their luxuries they reduced their taxation. It was not at all desirable, now that the working classes had been so largely intrusted with political power, that they should not contribute somewhat to the general expenditure. If they did so contribute they would have an interest in economy. It could not be said that the working classes were unfairly dealt with in being taxed in an indirect manner according to their own consumption and their own requirements. There was hardly any other country, including our own colonies, where articles of necessity were not taxed. In France and Germany, our competitors, the first necessities of life were highly taxed, thereby raising the price of those articles, not only in respect of imported articles but also of home-grown; and it was in competition with countries in which the working classes were so taxed that our people had to pursue their various industries. His contention was that it was not desirable nor just that the working classes should be entirely relieved of taxation. He did not believe they wished it. He believed they were perfectly ready to bear their fair share of taxation. He rejoiced very much that they were relieved from taxation on articles of the first necessity. He would remind the hon. Member for Mayo that at the time when tobacco was taxed at a lower rate in Ireland the working classes then were obliged to pay higher rates for various articles that were protected by duties. Therefore he would express his belief that the tobacco tax was not a tax that called for reduction; and probably there was a large body of opinion in the House that the working classes, relieved as they were from burdens which pressed heavily upon them in times past, ought now to bear their fair share of the expenditure of the country through taxes in respect of these luxuries.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR (Liverpool, Scotland) expressed his surprise at the speech of the right hon. Baronet the Member for London University. He had spoken of the large remission of taxation which had taken place in this country. No Irish Member had ever grudged any reduction of taxation on the working classes of England. But their own case was entirely different. Their case was that while there had been this enormous remission of taxation in England, there had been an enormous increase of taxation in Ireland. And further their case was this—and it must have given many migivings to hon. Gentlemen even during the Jubilee week, which he did not grudge them as Englishmen—their case was this, that this enormous reduction of taxation in England had been accompanied by an enormous increase in population and prosperity, while the increase of taxation in Ireland had gone on side by side and step by step with the most enormous reduction of population ever known in the history of any country in any age. Let hon. Gentlemen try to get around the fact that in England during this reign the population had doubled while taxes had been abolished, but that in Ireland the population had decreased one-half and taxation had almost doubled. Any Gentleman, especially one who called himself a Liberal Unionist, who was supposed to be in favour of equality as between England and Ireland, who would get up and say that no case had been made out on the side of Ireland against the present system of taxation was really one of the most marvellous pieces of self-deception he had ever seen even in the Liberal Unionist ranks. The argument of his hon. Friend had met with two sets of criticism. It was said he was far too generous in proposing a reduction of taxation for England as well as for Ireland. Of course the difficulty he saw was that to repeal the tax for Ireland, and leave it operating for England would mean a Custom House as between the two countries. That, no doubt, was a matter which concerned Englishmen a great deal more than Irishmen, at the same time he did not think it was a concession they were likely to obtain, and his hon. Friend had to move by steps. A great deal had been said, especially by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, about the smallness of the relief that would be given to Ireland. He did not think £800,000 would be a small relief at all. He remembered that when they were discussing the Home Rule Bill brought in by the last Government of Mr. Gladstone, they had some doubts as to whether the financial proposals of the Bill were sufficiently favourable, and the able financiers responsible for the Bill told them that they had a free half-million; and if a free half-million was a matter of importance, the relief now proposed by his hon. Friend was surely worth having.

The hon. Member who last spoke laid down a principle none of them would be prepared to dispute—viz., that every class of the community should make some contribution to the taxation of the country, in order to bring home their responsibility for the administration of the country and its expenditure. At the same time, it must be remembered that when a country went to war the first class to suffer was the working class. They formed the majority of the rank and file of the army, and they were the first to feel the loss of employment which must come as the result of war; so that the burden fell primarily more heavily on those whose only capital was the wage they earned by their own right hand. As to tobacco being a luxury, personally he considered it an obnoxious indulgence, the fascination of which he had never been able to discover. But that was not the opinion of the majority of the inhabitants of the country, and he was convinced that tobacco in England, and still more in Ireland, was regarded among the working classes as nearly if not entirely a necessity. He therefore sympathised with any attempt to reduce its price.

Mr. DILLON said that when discussing the financial relations of Great Britain and Ireland, the Chancellor of the Exchequer triumphantly challenged the Irish Members to name a single tax that bore unjustly on the Irish people. It was in reply to that challenge that he had proposed a reduction of the tax on tobacco. He was criticised because he proposed to extend the same relief to the working classes of this country as it would bring to those of Ireland. He replied that they must endeavour to remedy this Irish grievance in every possible way. That was their platform. A financial system that was good for England, would never be got to suit Ireland. They could not successfully run on the same financial system, a poor agricultural country and a wealthy manufacturing country. What suited the one admirably would break the back of the other. That was their political creed, and he believed that time would prove that they were right. But they had been denied the right, and had been treated with ignominy when they had tried to remedy the Irish situation by establishing a differential system. They were told that the two countries must be treated as one whole and not as two entities. He came forward, therefore, with a proposal based on that. He said, "if you won't apply a separate remedy, apply a general remedy." Then, when he accepted the Chancellor of the Exchequer's challenge and proposed to abolish a tax which pressed cruelly on the Irish people, he was met with the statement :—

> "Your proposal will make too big a hole in my Budget; the English are well off as they are—they don't grumble."

That answer was only an illustration of the impossibility of the situation as regarded Ireland. Then the right hon. Gentleman compared London financially with Ireland. If ever an illustration could be given of the incapacity even of English Members of the highest ability, especially of financial ability, to deal with this Irish question, that certainly was one. It almost led one to despair. In politics all theories were overcome and dominated by practice and results. Whatever might be the opinion of the hon. Baronet the Member for London University, the facts were with them when they said that the existing financial system had robbed and plundered Ireland and had resulted in reducing its population by one-half, while it had plunged the remaining half into deeper poverty than existed 60 years ago. That was a situation which afforded a sufficient answer to the criticisms that had been raised. He knew that he had laid himself open to the charge of showing too much interest in the working classes of England. But that was a charge he was compelled to submit to, for they were obliged to raise this question in every shape and at every opportunity that offered. He himself did not consider it a fair matter of reproach if, in doing some measure of justice to the Irish people, they also applied a remedy to what he considered, even with all England's wealth, to be the unfair taxation of the working classes of this country. An hon. Member had said it was inexpedient and unjust that the working classes should be relieved of all burdens of taxation. He wanted to know who ever proposed such a thing? The fact was generally admitted that in the past the working classes had been made to bear an enormously excessive burden of taxation in proportion to their resources; and what he proposed in this Motion was to continue one step farther that most beneficial tendency of shifting taxation from the shoulders of the working classes on to the shoulders of those who were infinitely better able to bear it. When hon. Members told him that in foreign countries the necessities of life were taxed, and that the burden of taxation on the shoulders of the working classes was much heavier than in this country, then he replied, "So much the worse for foreign countries." The unjust burden of taxation that now lay upon Ireland arose from indirect, and not direct taxation. If the whole of the taxation of this country were raised by direct taxation, Ireland would only have to pay something like one twenty-fourth. It was owing to indirect taxation that the proportion of Ireland was raised to nearly double. It was for those reasons that he moved the Amendment, which he should press to a division.

*Sir WILLIAM HARCOURT (Monmouth, W.): I believe the Report of the Royal Commission establishes that indirect taxation levied in the United Kingdom bears much more hardly upon Ireland than upon England or Scotland. Of that fact there cannot be the least doubt. Indirect taxation bears more hardly upon the poor than upon the rich; Ireland is essentially a poor country, therefore I do believe that to a considerable extent the redress of the financial grievance of Ireland must be looked for in the reduction of indirect taxation. It is also to be looked for in the case of the poorer community in England in the same direction. You may have a state of things where, if you reduce indirect taxation, you must impose additional taxation of a different character. But that is not our case this year or last year. I ventured to point out upon the Second Reading of the Budget Bill that there was a considerable surplus, and that there was money available by which the tea duty might be reduced by one-half. That would have been another way of appropriating money which was actually in the Exchequer and at the disposal of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, but which has been appropriated in a different manner. The reduction of the tea duty from 4d. to 2d. would have been perfectly within the scope of the financial arrangements of this year, and I should have very much desired that to be done. We are told we are to have a new Financial Commission, which will solve the difficulties which have not yet been solved. We have the great fact of what I consider the financial grievance of Ireland, which consists in the indirect taxation, and I, for my part, shall always be ready to welcome an opportunity of remedying the injustice by reducing indirect taxation. One of the greatest blessings of this country, not merely financially, but socially and politically, has been the manner in which the wealthier classes have been willing to accept a larger portion of the burdens of taxation than those to which they had been previously accustomed. We have seen in other countries—we have seen it in America—a refusal to accept this principle of increased direct taxation as a substitution for indirect taxation. I believe that unwillingness on the part of the wealthier classes to accept a just share, according to their resources, of the burdens and the increased burdens of the country is one of the greatest evils by which any country can be affected. ["Hear, hear!"] I believe one of the chief sources of the contentment which happily reigns in this country is due to the fact that the wealthier classes have been willing to relieve the poorer classes by increasing the direct taxation of the country and reducing the indirect taxation. ["Hear, hear!"] I concur with my hon. Friend below the Gangway in the view that the whole tendency of future finance ought to be in the direction of still further diminishing indirect taxation in this country, and so making the taxation more tolerable to the great masses of the people of this country and consequently producing greater contentment. [*Cheers.*]

MR. LEONARD COURTNEY (Cornwall, Bodmin) thought the discussion had turned too much upon the question between Ireland and Great Britain. The Motion had no reference to the mutual relations of the two islands, but it was a Motion for the relief of taxes which affected the inhabitants of the two islands. The real question did not lie between the inhabitants of one island and another, but between the poorer and the richer classes of the community. If anything had been proved by the recent investigations of the Financial Relations Commission it was that the poorer classes of the United Kingdom, wherever found, paid too large a share in respect of the fiscal burdens which the national establishment required. Their defence as against the Irish remonstrance of injustice was not that too much money was not extracted from Ireland, but that the greater portion was returned to Ireland. If they had a large process of extraction alone, and did not look to what was spent in Ireland above what was spent in Great Britain, they should have to confess that relatively too much had been extracted from Ireland. They saw at once that a confession of that kind involved the confession that their financial system as it at present stood was unjust to the poorer classes. A system which was properly balanced ought not to be unjust to any section of the islands, and why their system operated more severely in one island than in the other was because there were a larger number of poorer persons there. ["Hear, hear!"] These poorer persons were not more hardly taxed than the poorer persons in Great Britain. The man who bought whisky in Tipperary did not pay more in relation to his means than the poor wretch in Drury Lane who drank gin and whose means were the same. The hon. Member for East Mayo was moving in the right direction in wishing to amend the inequality of the burdens imposed on rich and poor, and he saw in the reduction of the tobacco duty a means of redressing a burden that pressed on the poor in Ireland and the poor in Great Britain also. The hon. Member thought a great wrong had been inflicted upon Ireland because the cultivation of tobacco there had been abolished. But experiments had shown that tobacco and beetroot for sugar could not be cultivated at a profit. The hon. Member objected to the relation between the duty on cigars and the duty on unmanufactured tobacco, and he derided the argument used in 1863 that the revision of the duty on tobacco was founded on the principles of free trade, as if there could be any question of free trade in reference to the production of a commodity which was forbidden in the United Kingdom. But the question of free trade was applicable to the taxation of that commodity, and it was in the interests of free trade that the duty on cigars was reduced, so as to place it more nearly on an equality with the tax on tobacco generally. Cigars were made in this country of unmanufactured tobacco, and if there was a great difference between the duty on unmanufactured tobacco and cigars a premium was offered to the manufacturer of cigars, and Mr. Ayrton, a man of great ability, defended the interests of his constituency, which contained a large proportion of the cigar manufacturers of the United Kingdom, and fought against free trade in the interests of those engaged in the tobacco industry who worked in Whitechapel. The alteration of the tobacco duty in 1863 was made strictly in deference to the doctrines of free trade, and was done to prevent an unjust advantage being given to the manufacturer of cigars at home. The inequality of taxation between the different consumers of tobacco ought to be redressed, and Parliament had endeavoured to redress it by increasing the duty in favour of the consumers of low-priced tobacco. This was not a controversy between two islands, but between the upper and lower social strata. But the inequalities of taxation between the upper and lower social England than in any country in the civilised world, and were certainly fewer than in France or in the United States. But still we had not realised, what must be the aim of every financier, that the proportion of the contribution of every class of the community should bear a right relation to their means. The result of the Financial Relations Commission was an uncontrovertible demonstration of that fact. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had made his arrangements for the year, but the hon. Member for East Mayo might derive satisfaction from the fact that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had intimated that he had been considering the tobacco duty with a view to doing something substantial. For himself, he would rejoice if means could be found, without the imposition of fresh taxation, to gradually diminish and ultimately extnguish the inequalities of taxation which still existed and which were at the root of the complaints of the sister isle. ["Hear, hear!"]

*Mr. T. P. WHITTAKER (York, W.R., Spen Valley) said that Ireland was a spirit-drinking country, while England was a beer-drinking country. In proportion to alcoholic strength beer was not taxed as heavily as spirits, with the result that the poor man in Ireland, who took his liquor in spirits, paid more than the man who drank beer.

*The CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS reminded the hon. Member that the clause referred to tobacco, and not to beer or spirits.

*Mr. WHITTAKER remarked that the Chancellor of the Exchequer said no means were provided for making good the loss that would be involved if the proposal of the clause were adopted, and he was suggesting means that might be available. The money taken from tobacco duty should be levied on beer. In that way the inequality would be rectified. The Exchequer would take more money from the Englishman and less from the Irishman. Early in the century beer was taxed three times as much as spirits, and if they went back to the original tax on beer they would greatly relieve the grievances of which Ireland complained.

Motion made, and Question put, "That the Clause be Read a Second time."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 89; Noes, 289.—(Division List, No. 253.)

DEATH DUTY.

*Captain PRETYMAN rose to move the following Clause:—

Section two, Sub-section one (b), of the Finance Act, 1894, shall be read and have effect as if after the words "Property in which the deceased" the words "at the time of his death" were inserted, and as if after the words "any other person" the words "at the time of such death" were inserted.

He said it was possible under the terms of the Finance Act of 1894 for any person who was the absolute owner of any property to transfer any portion of that property during his lifetime, in which case any property so transferred did not become liable to duty. But, with regard to settled properties, any person who had a life interest in them was held to be unable to divest himself of that interest, and if he should during his lifetime transfer it to any other person, and thus at the time of his death should have no interest whatever, it was still held to be liable to duty exactly the same as if he had retained it until the time of his death. He cited the case of a man who died leaving a widow and some young children. The property of the father would naturally pass direct to the children if those children were of age at the time of his death, but if they were under age it was customary that he should give to his widow a life interest in the property, and that the children should take her interest at her death. It was a very common thing in such a case for the widow on one or other of the children coming of age to transfer to the child some portion of the life interest vested in herself. That property then passed entirely from the widow and was enjoyed by the child absolutely from the date of the transfer; but on the death of the widow some years after the transfer Estate Duty was claimed to be payable on the property exactly as if she had retained it to her death. He had put down the Amendment to the Finance Bill of last year to meet the hardship of such a case as that, but on the suggestion of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who pointed out that the point was one of an extremely doubtful nature, he withdrew the Amendment. On looking into the matter it was found that at first the Finance Act of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Monmouthshire was interpreted by the Treasury in the sense that a person had an absolute right to transfer his or her life interest in a property exactly as a freehold was transferred. That might be taken as the original view of the authors of the Act.

*SIR W. HARCOURT expressed dissent.

*CAPTAIN PRETYMAN said the way the Act was administered by the right hon. Gentleman when he was in charge of the Treasury was that duty was not claimed in the case he had just described. Just before the Liberal Government went out of Office advice was given by the then Law Officers of the Crown that duty was chargeable in that particular case, and the Treasury proceeded to claim duty in all cases. But it was found after a time that this created enormous difficulties in regard to settlements made prior to the passing of the Act, and then the Treasury proceeded to administer the Act in a third sense—namely, that duty should only be claimed when the settlement was made subsequent to the passing of the Act. It was therefore evident that the interpretation of the Act was a matter of extreme doubt and difficulty, and, in the circumstances, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, when the Amendment was before the House last year, expressed the wish that the proper interpretation of the Act as at present worded should be made clear in the Courts of law before the House was asked to deal with the point raised in the Amendment. It appeared to him that it was hardly fair that any private individual should be asked to bear the cost of an action against the Crown in order to have this doubtful point settled, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, recognising the force of the argument, agreed that if a case should be found which, in the opinion of the Law Officers of the Crown distinctly raised this point, the Treasury would pay the reasonable costs of both sides. On that understanding he postponed his Amendment until this Session. He was glad to say that within the last few weeks a case had arisen which had been accepted by the Law Officers of the Crown as raising the point in question in a clear and definite manner. It was rather curious that in this case the widow should have borne the name of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the son to whom the property passed should be one of his constituents in the Woodbridge division of Suffolk. (*Laughter.*) He therefore asked the leave of the Committee to further postpone his Amendment until the case was decided by the Law Courts.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS called upon Mr. Lough in whose name stood the next Amendment on the Paper.

SIR ROBERT REID (Dumfries Burghs) rose to a point of order. He asked whether any opportunity was to be given for a reply to the statement of the hon. Member for the Woodbridge Division, who was mistaken in regard to the law?

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS: There is no question before the Committee.

*SIR W. HARCOURT said he should like to have it made clear, in the interest of the Committee, whether a Member could make a long speech in reference to an Amendment he did not move, incorporating in that statement a number of extremely controversial topics, and then that no opportunity should be given for a reply. If so it was a great waste of the time of the Committee. ["Hear, hear."]

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS: I was under the impression that the hon. Member was going to conclude his speech by moving his Amendment.

*CAPTAIN PRETYMAN said he had not been aware that any one desired to enter into a discussion on the matter. He now begged to move his Amendment, and after the discussion would withdraw it by leave of the Committee.

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER said that the point raised by the Amendment, about which there was considerable doubt, was now before the Courts, and he ventured to suggest that in the circumstances debate on the Amendment was unnecessary and would be a waste of the time of the Committee.

SIR R. REID said he did not desire to see a debate raised. But what he objected to was that the statement of the hon. and gallant Member, which was in the highest degree controversial, should be made and that no opportunity should be given for a reply. He would urgently press on the attention of the Chancellor of the Exchequer the fact that if the Amendment were accepted a portion of the Finance Act would be seriously imperilled. Take the case of a man having an estate for life with some one else having the estate in remainder. The man with the estate for life had only, when it was declared he had but a month to live, to sell the value of his life estate, for perhaps a third of the year's interest or less, and the effect would be that the property would escape from Estate Duty altogether. He did not wish to argue the question; but it must not be supposed that those who helped to pass the Finance Act of 1894 were willing to see a coach and six driven through it as the hon. Member proposed in his Amendment. If the decision of the Courts were opposed to the contention of the Attorney General, he wished to point out what a necessity there would be for rescuing the Act.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis) pointed out that if the Amendment were carried the administration of the Act of 1894 would only be restored to the principle on which it was conducted for a whole year after the Act was passed. The present system was not carrying out the intention of the right hon. Member for West Monmouth. It was a refinement of the Law Officers.

Clause, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. LOUGH moved the following new clause:—

DRAWBACK ON COFFEE.

"There shall be allowed on all roasted coffee exported which is not mixed with chicory or any other substance a drawback on every full 100 lb. thereof equal to the import duty for the time being on 1 cwt. of raw coffee, and the words 'a drawback shall be allowed on all roasted coffee exported as ships' stores equal in amount to the import duty on raw coffee' contained under the head 'coffee' in the schedule to the Customs Tariff Act 1876, are hereby repealed."

He said that last year he introduced an influential deputation to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, which pointed out that the London coffee trade was diminishing while that of Continental ports was increasing. The right hon. Gentleman held out no hope of a repeal of the coffee duty, but he expressed himself sympathetically on some of the grievances which were brought forward. One of these was that coffee could not be roasted in this country for export, for while, since 1876, the duty was refunded on roasted coffee which was exported for ships' stores, it was not refunded on coffee exported for foreign consumption. Another grievance was that the duty refunded on coffee exported for ships' stores was calculated at the rate of the duty paid on raw coffee, and no less than 20 per cent. of the coffee was lost in the roasting. His new clause would meet both the points he had mentioned.

Clause read the First time.

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER said that he had promised to consider this question, and the Customs officials had assured him that the clause proposed by the hon. Member would involve no injury to the revenue, and might give facilities to the coffee trade. Therefore he was willing to accept the clause. ["Hear!"]

Clause read a Second time, and ordered to stand part of the Bill.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES moved the following new clause:—

DEATH DUTY.

"Section Six, Sub-section Two, of the Finance Act 1894, shall be read and have effect as if at the end of the sub-section, after the words 'such payment,' there were inserted the words 'and an amount equal to the proper rateable part of any Estate Duty paid by an executor may be recovered by such executor from each legatee or beneficiary according to the proportionate share of the whole property passing to each legatee or beneficiary by the death in respect or with reference to which such duty has become payable."

He said that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had been so generous that he could not be expected to accept any alteration in the Death Duties which would involve a sacrifice of revenue. But this Amendment would not involve any sacrifice. There was a clause to the same effect in the original Bill of the right hon. Member for West Monmouth. At present the whole of the duty on an estate passing by death was payable by the residuary legatee. The other legatees got their legacies in full. It was said that if this were not so, it would be an infraction of the analogue to the Probate Duty which this Act was supposed to represent. But the principle of making each beneficiary pay his own death duty was recognised in the Act in regard to real and settled property, and in regard to donations made within twelve months of death. There was a case last year in which a wealthy gentleman gave £10,000 to a nephew on the occasion of the nephew's marriage. The gentleman died within twelve months, and the nephew had to pay £800 duty on the gift which had not been made at all in anticipation of death. That showed that the principle of the Probate Duty was not adhered to in the Finance Act of 1894. Last year there was no doubt a difficulty in pressing an Amendment of this kind, because it was felt that in case each man were called upon to pay his own Estate Duty, a difficulty might arise in the Department, inasmuch as it would be necessary after the whole Estate Duty had been taken out of what the French called the "local" estate, for the Department to apportion each beneficiary's share of the duty before coming to the charge of legacy and succession duties. That difficulty mainly, and he thought exclusively, arose with regard to annuities, but the difficulty had been removed this year by the operation of Clause 16 of the Finance Act 1896. Consequently the difficulty which was felt in the Department no longer existed, or if it did it existed already in the case of annuities. Certainly it seemed fair, as in the case of donations within twelve months before death, as in real estate, and as in settled property, that the beneficiaries should bear their proper proportion of the duty. It was in consequence of his desire to affirm the principle that each man should bear his own taxes, that he had put down the Amendment, and he trusted the Chancellor of the Exchequer might be able to accept it, because it did not touch the revenue.

Clause Read the First time.

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER said that at present Estate Duty was paid out of the residuary estate, and many wills had been made by testators on the basis of the existing law, and he was advised that to carry out the proposal of his hon. Friend would cause great difficulty and confusion, and lead to a considerable increase of payments to lawyers by requiring these wills to be recast. He must therefore refuse the Amendment.

Clause, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES moved to insert: "Sub-section 2 of Section 2 of the Finance Act 1894 is hereby repealed." He said that this was the sub-section which charges duty on property situate out of the United Kingdom. He had always held that it was an extremely dangerous thing to attempt to charge property situate out of the United Kingdom. The amount involved was trifling, and apart from that, it was a duty which, having regard to the comity of nations, we should attempt to levy. But in addition to that, it fell with distinct hardship on the Colonies. It was extremely hard for a colonist to find that the property he had made and accumulated in the Colonies should be subject to taxation. On all these grounds he submitted that it would be extremely advisable if the Chancellor of the Exchequer could be induced to part with this tax.

Clause Read the First time.

*SIR W. HARCOURT pointed out that the whole object of the enactment in question was to make property, wherever situate, subject to the duty. If a distinction were made between property abroad and property here it would give an enormous advantage to foreign investments over investments in this country. That was to say, if a man invested in the British Funds he would pay the duty, whereas if he invested in, say, Russian Funds, he would pay no duty at all. He confessed to some surprise that the hon. Member should propose an Amendment founded upon such a principle as that.

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER was of opinion that the Amendment, if accepted, would open the door to considerable evasions of the Death Duties, and would be very unfair to investors in this country. The amount of foreign personalty which paid the Estate Duty in 1896-97 was £3,334,000, representing about £160,000 duty. He had little doubt that a much greater loss than that would have occurred if it were known that foreign property would be exempt.

Clause, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES moved the following new clause:—

> Section Two, Sub-section One, Clause (c), of the Finance Act 1894 is hereby amended as follows:—the description of property marked (c) shall be construed as if the words in Section Eleven, Sub-section One, of The Customs and Inland Revenue Act 1889, "be read as if the word 'twelve' were substituted for the word 'three' therein, and the said description of property shall" were omitted therefrom.

In other words, this meant the abolition of the charge on property passing by disposition made within twelve months of death. This Amendment and two subsequent Amendments, were really all one, and the present one he thought one of the most monstrous enactments of the Finance Act of 1894. He could understand that you might perhaps argue that a man was constructively dead three months before he was really dead, but they could not assume that a man was dead twelve months before the event. This was done simply and solely for the purpose of cheating the successor to the man's estate out of duties to which the Revenue was not entitled. He was the last to contend that a man should be allowed to make a gift, when he knew he was dying, in order to evade the duty; on the contrary, an Estate Duty should be charged when such attempts to evade Estate Duty were made. But it was a question of fact to be determined by evidence, and was cognate with the question of domicile—whether a man was or was not domiciled in this country at the time of his death. It should be decided upon evidence, and not by a brutal assumption in favour of the Revenue. It was both unjust and unnecessary to assume that a man could not properly dispose of any of his estate, within twelve months of his death. He might have no suspicion that death was coming. He might be killed in a railway accident. He would call in aid the case of Richard Montague; who made a gift of £10,000 at a time when he was apparently in perfect health, but he died within the twelve months and duty had to be paid. So that there was not an inhabitant of this Kingdom who could receive a gift of more than £100 value, and enjoy it in security until a whole year had passed. At any time during the year the donor might die—by a railway accident, or by natural causes, and the donee would be called upon to pay duty to the State. He did not claim that a man should be able to evade duty by making gifts in contemplation of death, but he did say that to make this large, bold, and brutal assumption that every man was fraudulent for a year before his death, and that every gift he made during that time was made with a fraudulent intent to cheat the Revenue, was an assumption that ought not to be made. He was aware that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had already pronounced and voted against what he considered to be the just principle for which he was pleading. He was, of course, lamentably aware that the First Lord of the Admiralty was the very exaggerator of this principle from three months to twelve months. He was aware also that the Government had a large majority, and he had no hope of carrying his Resolution against the opposition he too readily foresaw it would receive from the Chancellor of the Exchequer. But he thought this thing so unfair, unjust, and wicked on the part of the Revenue that he should never cease from putting down his Amendment and rising in his place in defence of a principle of justice which he had vindicated year after year. He should never cease to preach, inside and outside the House, that it was the duty of those who sought to levy revenue to do so in accordance with the principles of common fairness and justice, and not to perpetuate on the statute book the monstrous assumption that a man is dead twelve months before he dies.

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER said it was evident that his hon. Friend knew very well what his duty was with regard to the Amendment. His hon. Friend adhered to his own opinion; and he (the Chancellor of the Exchequer) must also adhere to his own. The hon. Member had admitted that a gift made a short time before death ought to be looked upon with the gravest suspicion. He almost admitted, in fact, that three months was not an unfair term. But, as a matter of fact the three months limit was tried, and was found to be insufficient to prevent great evasions; and in 1887 it was extended by the present First Lord of the Admiralty. It had been found that twelve months was absolutely necessary to prevent evasions, and he was afraid that even twelve months did not always prevent them. ["Hear, hear!"] He must, therefore, oppose the Amendment.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES said it was hopeless to argue with the master of many legions, and, with the permission of the House, he would withdraw his Motion. ["Hear, hear," *and cries of* "Divide!"]

Motion made and Question put, "That the Clause be read a Second time:"—The Committee divided:—Ayes, 25; Noes, 197.—(Division List, No. 254).

Mr. Gibson Bowles.

MR. T. W. LEGH (Lancashire, S.W., Newton) moved the following new Clause:—

"Section 20, sub-section 1, of the Finance Act, 1896, shall be read and have effect as if the words 'appear to the Treasury to be' were omitted, and the word 'are' inserted in their stead."

It seemed to him that the present arrangement was distinctly open to objection. In the first place the Treasury was given the power to construe an Act of Parliament, and in the second place the Treasury was an interested party, its interest being to obtain as much money as it possibly could from the persons liable. He would not be sorry to restrain the capacity of the Treasury to some extent if he could. The usual practice of the Treasury was to refer these questions to various experts, and he believed that was the course followed by the present Chancellor of the Exchequer. But there was not the least obligation on the part of the right hon. Gentleman to take this course, and there was no reason why the successors of the right hon. Gentleman should be expected to imitate his example. If, for example, his right hon. Friend the Secretary to the Treasury became Chancellor of the Exchequer, looking to his well-known zeal for public economy, he was inclined to think that the exemptions which would be made by him would be of a very trivial character indeed. What was the object of these remissions? The principle aimed at was to exempt certain objects because they were valuable, and not because they appeared to be valuable to the Treasury or to any one else. Under the present arrangement great uncertainty prevailed, and no one knew what he would have to pay, as had been well said, until he was dead [*Laughter*]. His Amendment was intended to elucidate the point to a certain extent.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES supported the Clause. He did not know whether the Committee was aware that in giving the decision as to these matters to the Treasury they were really appealing from Cæsar to Cæsar, because the Inland Revenue was the Treasury. The Inland Revenue was bound to act under the direction and control of the Treasury; it could not call itself its own master, so much so that the Comptroller of Legacy Duties positively told the Public Accounts Committee that if an unlawful order were given to him by the Treasury he would consider it his duty to obey. There was another reason. Their recent experience of the Treasury should disincline the Committee to leave in its hands the construction of an Act of Parliament. The Treasury, in a case which had become notorious admittedly against the law, sanctioned a remission of Death Duties in the case of the Tsar of Russia. The Public Accounts Committee reported that this was against the law; and yet this was the body forsooth to whom the Committee were going to leave a decision which might affect property valued by millions. They gave to the Treasury the power to decide as to whether a work was of historic, national or scientific interest. It was a most improper body to arrive at such a decision on such a subject. The Treasury was only another name for the Inland Revenue, and it would be better to give the decision to the Inland Revenue than to give an appeal from the Inland Revenue to the Treasury. The proper way moreover to decide the intepretation of an Act of Parliament, was to employ the proper machinery which was provided, and which in the last resort was the courts of law. The first agreement was that between the parties, and in 999 cases out of 1,000, the Inland Revenue and the persons interested in Legacy Duty would come to an agreement between themselves as to what was brought within the meaning of this clause. The Chancellor of the Exchequer might give his decision in regard to one matter, but another Chancellor of the Exchequer might take an entirely opposite view. Fancy some new, Philistine, inartistic Chancellor of the Exchequer being called upon to decide as to whether a Madonna of the 16th century was or was not of historic interest.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS suggested that the two new clauses on thePaper of the hon. Member for the Newton Division of Lancashire should be combined and put forward as one new clause.

MR. LEGH accepted this view, and moved to add to the proposed new clause:—

> "Section 20, Sub-section 1, of the Finance Act 1896, shall be read and have effect as if after the words 'to be of national, scientific,' the word "artistic' were inserted."

He said that the expression "not yielding income" had led many persons to suppose that heirlooms were exempted from duty. Those who knew better were well aware that the concession obtained from the Chancellor of the Exchequer last year was of a very narrow character. By the wording of the section objects which were to be exempted from duty were to be of national, scientific, or historic interest. Take the most common instance, the case of family pictures. It was extremely improbable that the bulk of family pictures would come within the category of being "national, scientific, or historic"—nay, how many pictures in the National Gallery itself would come within this category? The view of the right hon. Member for West Monmouthshire was that the only persons in possession of works of art worth anything in this country were millionaires. Everybody at the present moment professed an extreme interest in art, and the object of the exemption made in the Act was mainly to enable valuable works of art to be retained in this country. Where the national interest came in was when such works of art were sold and found their way to foreign countries. One of the results of the financial achievement of the right hon. Member for Monmouth was that a very large number of works of art had left this country. He had been assured by a gentleman who was probably the highest authority upon this subject in the kingdom, Sir William Agnew, that no less than three-and-a-half millions worth of pictures had left this country and found homes abroad since the Act of 1894 was passed. ["Hear, hear!"] That was an important fact, and it would be a misfortune to this country if works of art were to continue leaving at that rate. ["Hear, hear!"] He would also point out that in consequence of the extremely narrow character of the concession made under the Act there was no encouragement to private individuals to form collections. He had heard of public-spirited people who had left valuable collections to public bodies, but who had made it a condition that if any tax was imposed the bequest was not to be effective. Mr. Franks left a very valuable bequest to the British Museum on the condition that no duty should be exacted. He thought this was a very valuable argument in favour of widening the scope of the section, and, as a matter of drafting, as it was already stated that scientific collections must be scientific if they were to be exempt, it stood to reason that works of art ought similarily to be "artistic." If, therefore, the Chancellor of the Exchequer refused to accept the word "artistic," it was only logical that the word "scientific" should be eliminated.

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER observed that it was much too early to raise any point as to the working of the clause of last year, because in the financial year ending March last there had not been a single case decided under it. The fact was that collections of this kind were not very common; but there were two cases now before the Inland Revenue. One of them would very soon be decided, and the other one, he imagined, would shortly follow. He was pretty certain that when the decisions were known his hon. Friend and those who sympathised with him would find that the views of the Inland Revenue and the Treasury were much more favourable to them than they seemed to imagine. His hon. Friend had alluded to the extraordinary suggestion which had been made that persons should be enabled to discover whether their collections would be exempt from Death Duties or not before they died. That was quite impossible. ["Hear, hear!"] It would certainly be impossible if the Amendment were accepted and the operation of the Courts substituted for that of the Treasury, because the Courts must interpret the section somewhat narrowly, and they could not decide whether certain articles were exempt from duty before the death occurred upon which the duty would be payable. Lists of collections had been sent to him, and he had been asked to decide whether the articles named in them would be exempt from duty when the person to whom they belonged died, perhaps, 30 or 40 years hence. (*Laughter.*) He need not say he had declined to undertake such an impossible task. ["Hear, hear!"] The effect of the section could only be tested by its working, and so far as the Amendment went he believed that to transfer the decision from the Treasury to the Law Courts would be to act directly contrary to the interests of those on whose behalf the hon. Member spoke, and would narrow the operation of the clause instead of extend it. ["Hear, hear!"] He should like to state the way in which, in his judgment, the clause would be interpreted. His hon. Friend proposed that the word "artistic" should be inserted. That was absolutely unnecessary. This was the manner in which, as he had indicated, the Inland Revenue proposed to interpret the section: The section was held to apply to particular works of art which were of such national or historic interest that they would be purchased or accepted as a bequest by one of the national collections, and the Inland Revenue would employ an expert to give his opinion upon the subject. If there was any doubt as to the decision of the expert the matter would be referred either to the Trustees of the National Gallery, or of the National Portrait Gallery, or of the British Museum, as the case might be, whose opinion would certainly, so far as he was concerned, be accepted by him as a sufficient guide. ["Hear, hear!"] He ventured to say that no Court of Law in the world would interpret the clause more liberally than that. ["Hear, hear!"] He contended, indeed, that they would interpret it much more narrowly. He would point out that the interpretation he had quoted rendered the word "artistic," which his hon. Friend desired to insert, quite unnecessary, and that he would gain nothing by its insertion. In deciding whether a picture or series of pictures was of historic interest regard would be had not merely to their merits as works of art, but to the persons whom they represented; and not merely the history of the country but of a county or a county family would be taken as justifying the exemption of those pictures from duty. He could not go beyond that interpretation of the clause, and he hoped that the Committee would support him. ["Hear!"]

SIR CUTHBERT QUILTER (Suffolk, Sudbury) confessed that he would rather see the word "artistic" inserted in the clause or some equivalent than trust to even the very liberal interpretation placed upon it by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. They might not always have the good fortune to have a gentleman of such great ability and such large views holding that position. He could corrobate the statement of his hon. Friend as to pictures leaving this country. It was an immense misfortune that men of moderate means having valuable pictures were forced, or believed themselves to be forced, by fear of the death duties, to part with pictures of inestimable value to wealthy American and foreign purchasers. If things went on as at present in a few years we should have parted with hundreds and thousands of art treasures which we would then give worlds to replace. Surely if the addition of a few simple words would do anything to prevent those pictures going out of the country it would be a boon to the ever-increasing number of people in this country who took an interest in art. ["Hear, hear!"]

MR. VICARY GIBBS (Herts, St. Albans) supported the Amendment, and expressed the hope that the Chancellor of the Exchequer would do something more than enunciate a liberal interpretation of the clause.

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER appealed to his hon. Friends. He had told them that the section of the Act would be interpreted by him in the way he had stated, and he thought the manner in which they had criticised the wording of it was somewhat ungracious to himself. ["Hear, hear!"]

VISCOUNT CRANBORNE (Rochester) said that although he should much prefer that the intentions of his right hon. Friend should be enshrined in the Act itself, he thought his hon. Friends ought to be satisfied with the liberal interpretation which the Chancellor of the Exchequer had given to the clause. He thought a great concession had been made.

MR. T. W. LEGH said he was not altogether satisfied, but as the Chancellor of the Exchequer was undergoing a process of conversion—[*The Chancellor of the Exchequer:* "No, I am not," *and laughter*]—he would ask leave to withdraw his Amendment.

Proposed Amendment, by leave, withdrawn; Clause, by leave, withdrawn.

*CAPTAIN PRETYMAN moved the following new Clause:—

SETTLED PROPERTY.

"Section 2, sub-section 1 (*b*), of the Finance Act, 1894, shall be read and have effect as if after the words 'property in which the deceased' the words, 'at the time of his death' were inserted, and as if after the words 'any other person,' the words, at the time of such death,' were inserted."

The hon. Member said that what the proposed Clause came to was this—that by the Finance Act of 1894 it was enacted, and was clearly intended by the promoters of the Act, that settled property should pay a special duty, called settlement duty, of 1 per cent., and in consideration of that payment (which was remitted only in the case of settlement made previous to the passing of the Act) only one duty should be paid in the course of each settlement. There were two conditions necessary under the Act to exonerate any particular settled property. One was, that the estate duty must already have been paid; the other, that the person at whose death the duty was claimed must have been competent to dispose of the property. If A settled property on B with remainder to C, the duty was payable on A's death, but not on B's, because he was not competent to dispose of the property, and the duty had been paid previously at A's death. But in the case of settlements which were in existence prior to the passing of the Act, duty was claimed upon the death of B, because it had not previously been paid when A's death preceded the passing of the Act, and as the Act was interpreted by many solicitors, and, he believed, by the ex-Attorney General (Sir R. T. Reid), duty would again be payable on the death of C, and so payable twice during the settlement instead of once. If A made the original settlement and B were competent to dispose of the property, B had to pay duty as well as C if A had not paid it. He had permission to quote the case of property in North Devon, a poor agricultural estate now owned by a gentleman named Troyte, who was in the position of C. He was tenant in tail under an old settlement. The present owner came of age about 1890, and re-settled the property with his father. The father, Colonel Troyte, had recently died, and duty was claimed on the father's death, and the present Mr. Troyte was treated as if absolute owner. It was decided that he inherited under the old settlement as absolute owner; and that, he imagined, would make the estate again liable to pay duty at his death. If he could get an authoritative decision that the estate would not have to pay duty on Mr. Troyte's death, he would be satisfied. But the opinion was that, as the Act said that any person who was competent to dispose of property would have to pay at his death, and as Mr. Troyte had been treated as the absolute owner, the presumption seemed to be that on his death duty would again be payable. Had duty been paid by the original settlor, no duty would have been payable at all on Colonel Troyte's death, but only on the death of the present owner. But the Inland Revenue said, and said justly, that, according to the terms of the Act, duty was payable on the death of Colonel Troyte, because the estate never paid duty before. What he wished to bring about was, that this duty, having to be paid now, should not be exacted from the same property a second time under the same settlement, and he believed the wording of the Amendment would bring about that result. In a case where a new settlement is made, as was made in 1891 in this case, and where duty had subsequently been paid, no duty should be again exacted until the death of a person competent to make a new disposal of the property. It was now exacted in the case cited, that of Colonel Troyte, and it would, unless authoritatively decided otherwise in the sense of his Amendment, be again payable on the death of the present owner. The settlement in 1891 was on Mr. Troyte's son, and he would be competent to dispose of the property which would thus be liable to duty again at his death. That appeared to be absolutely unfair, and if his Amendment were now inserted, the effect would be that the duty now payable would not be again payable on the death of the present owner, because it had been paid subsequent to the new settlement made, but it would be again payable on the death of the son, who would probably be the next successor. It was difficult to argue the point whether estate duty should be held to be payable at the beginning or the end of a settlement; but it really made no difference. If the duty were payable at the beginning of the settlement, the Treasury was asking Colonel Troyte's estate to pay on a death which took place before the Act was passed, and could not then be claimed. If, on the other hand, it were payable at the end of the settlement, they were simply ante-dating payment. It was exacted now, and the question was, whether it would be again exacted later on, from the successor, though paid so many years previously. The position of the Treasury might be thus described. Suppose a person had a bill becoming due at a certain date, and owing to certain legal formalities he received payment for that bill six months before it fell due, and then six months later claimed payment again, because payment was not made on the proper date; that would be exactly the position if duty were demanded again on the next life. It was no extraordinary case. It was an ordinary case, and might arise on every existing settlement affecting property throughout the country. He believed that the Amendment was within the four corners of the Act, and did not contradict any principle laid down. In course of time that which he now desired to bring about by the Amendment would be the natural operation of the Act. The words of the Amendment had been examined by lawyers, and he was assured would bring about the effect desired; but, of course, it was with great diffidence he submitted the Amendments to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Law Officers. If there were any other words that would better bring about the desired result, he would be perfectly prepared to accept them. The question only came to the front recently. Only lately the case of Colonel Troyte came to his knowledge, and it arose out of inquiries directed to a totally different purpose, when he observed that the duty had been charged against the present owner as absolute owner, not as tenant for life. Then arose the doubt; and the opinion of competent lawyers was that a second duty might be claimed. He would be perfectly satisfied with an authoritative answer that duty would not be claimed at the death of the owner, or a promise that words would be accepted to bring about the desired result.

THE SOLICITOR GENERAL (Sir ROBERT FINLAY, Inverness Burghs) said if the language of the Amendment were closely criticised it would be found to go far beyond the expressed intention, and give persons power to indefinitely postpone payment of estate duty. But he thought he could satisfy his hon. Friend that the grievance referred to did not really exist. Property having been settled on A for life and remainder to B as tenant in tail, they joined to break the entail, and the estate entailed was converted to remainder in fee, and so resettled on B for life with remainder to his son. Such was the case put by his hon. Friend. After that resettlement and after the Finance Act, 1894, came into force, A died, and estate duty was paid on the transmission of the property from A to B under settlement, and his hon. Friend said that on the death of B estate duty would be claimed again. To that he had to say—and he spoke with the full concurrence of the Attorney General—that under the circumstances described by his hon. Friend the fact of duty having been paid on the death of A made it impossible to claim it on the death of B. It would be seen on reference to the subsection of the Act, that if estate duty had already been paid in respect to any settled property since the death of the settlor duty would not again be payable until the death of the person who at the time or since was competent to dispose of the property.

*CAPTAIN PRETYMAN said he was perfectly satisfied with this declaration, but he justified himself to the Committee for raising the point. The words in the Act referred to by the Solicitor General were a little doubtful, and an authoritative interpretation was required. The words declared that duty should not be payable except on the death of the person competent to dispose of the property. As the person in the case he had cited had been held competent, and was charged as absolute owner, the point naturally arose whether the property would be again liable. The point appeared doubtful, and the case being submitted to competent lawyers, it was considered doubtful how it would be interpreted by the Inland Revenue. He was perfectly satisfied with the authoritative decision given.

Clause, by leave, withdrawn.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire) moved the insertion of the following new clause:—

DECLARATION AS TO EFFECT OF 16 & 17 VICT. C. 67 S. 2.

Nothing in the Statute Law Revision Act 1883, or the Statute Law Revision Act 1892, shall be deemed to have repealed any enactments so far as they are required for the purpose of giving effect to Section two of the Act of the Session of the sixteenth and seventeenth year of the reign of Her present Majesty, chapter sixty-seven.

He explained that the clause was to remedy a *contretemps* which had occurred under a clause in the Statute Law Revision Act, 1892, and to clear up a doubt under the Act. According to a judgment given some ten days ago on a clause of the Act of 1892, duty was no longer exigible upon a grocer's licence in Scotland. Of course there was no reason why grocers' licences should not pay duty, but it appeared that an enterprising grocer, finding that a question of law arose, contrived to obtain a decision in his favour in the Court of Justiciary, and, as the decision of that Court was not appealable to the House of Lords, the only way to put the matter right was by legislation.

Clause read a Second time, and ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Bill reported, with Amendments; as amended to be considered upon Thursday, and to be printed.—[Bill 292.]

SUPPLY [25TH JUNE].

Resolutions reported.

CIVIL SERVICES ESTIMATES, 1897–8.

CLASS II.

1. "That a sum, not exceeding £8,111, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending

on the 31st day of March 1898, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Office of Her Majesty's Secretary for Scotland and Subordinate Offices."

Mr. JOHN McLEOD (Sutherland) asked for an explanation as to how it came about that after the Secretary for Scotland had given a certain provisional promise to sanction certain public works in the Island of Lewis, no provision was made in the Estimates for carrying out these works. The local parties concerned had expended considerable sums of money in advertising these works, in preparing plans, and in making all the arrangements necessary to entitle them to obtain the grant provided for under the Highlands and Islands Act of 1891. The refusal to implement the Secretary for Scotland's promise was likely to have a very evil effect in the district. The County Council of Ross and Inverness and the Lews had made representations to the Scottish Office in regard to this matter and as it was a matter peculiarly personal to the Secretary for Scotland, it was unfortunate he could not be present to answer for himself.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE said that, as he had already explained on the Highlands and Islands Vote, the reason why the Estimate was diminished this year was that the £170,000 which the Treasury had undertaken to pay had been exhausted. But though the Vote had been diminished assistance was being given to the Highlands and Islands in another way—namely, in the form of the grant of £35,000 for congested districts. The Secretary for Scotland had no power to enter into engagements as to any particular work, and the hon. Member was quite right in saying that it was only a provisional promise, though even that term was perhaps a little too strong. He was very sorry if any money already spent in the locality should be wasted, but if it were it was just one of the risks incidental to the situation. Before any consent could be given the money must be voted by Parliament to carry out the work. Not sufficient money was voted to go on with the work, but they were entering upon a new chapter, so to speak, in the Congested Districts Bill, and, although he could understand the feeling of disappointment in the Highlands, he did not think that anyone could justly attribute any blame to the noble Lord the Secretary for Scotland, because all that was done by the Scotch Office was to give a sort of preliminary consideration to the matter, which could scarcely be called even a provisional consent. As to the presence of the Secretary for Scotland in the House of Commons, that was not for him to go into, but it seemed to him to raise the point as to whether they were to have any Ministers in the House of Lords at all.

*MR. J. G. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty) said he was greatly disappointed with the right hon. Gentleman's speech. If the Secretary for Scotland or the right hon. Gentleman would only approach the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary to the Treasury, more money would be got for Scotland. A little more firmness was all that was necessary. He did not approve of the policy of robbing Peter to pay Paul. He therefore asked, why should not the money for the works in the Highlands be provided outside the money to be given under the Congested Districts Bill?

MR. McLEOD said there was not a single word in the Act of 1891 about £170,000. There was nothing in the Act to prevent the Secretary for Scotland giving the money.

Resolution agreed to.

2. "That a sum, not exceeding £27,323, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1898, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Fishery Board in Scotland and for Grants in Aid of Piers or Quays."

3. "That a sum, not exceeding £3,422, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1898, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Board of Lunacy in Scotland."

4. "That a sum, not exceeding £3,129, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1898, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Department of the Registrar General of Births, &c., in Scotland.

5. "That a sum, not exceeding £7,951, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1898, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Local Government Board for Scotland, and for expenses under the Public Health Acts and other Acts, Infectious Diseases Notification

Act, Vaccination Act, Local Government (Scotland) Act 1889, Burgh Police (Scotland) Act, and Local Government (Scotland) Act 1894."

Resolutions agreed to.

CLASS IV.

6. "That a sum, not exceeding £604,933, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1898, for Public Education in Scotland."

*MR. WEIR complained that in many parts of the Highlands children who did not know a word of English were put under masters who did not know a word of Gaelic. He wished that in those districts where the children spoke Gaelic only, the schoolmasters should be Gaelic-speaking.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE said there was nothing to prevent the School Boards appointing competent Gaelic-speaking teachers. Certainly the question was one which was properly left to the School Boards to deal with.

*Mr. THOMAS HEDDERWICK (Wick Burghs) said that the idioms in the Gaelic language were entirely different from those in the English language, and it was well that a teacher should comprehend the forms of thought passing through a child's mind, and that a child should be able to understand what his master really meant. It would certainly tend to make education in the Gaelic-speaking portions of the north of Scotland much more efficient if care were taken that a certain number, at all events, of school instructors understood the language of the children they were employed to teach.

MR. McLEOD said that he and his hon. Friends were anxious that by means of a Gaelic-speaking teacher a child would at a very much earlier age and at very considerably less trouble acquire the English language than it did under the present system. He was certain that if the Education Department were to show a greater desire to encourage employment of Gaelic-speaking teachers the authorities in the Highlands would gladly employ them At present the Government gave a special grant—it is only a small one—in cases where Gaelic-speaking teachers were employed. But to employ such men it cost the authorities considerably more than the grant they received.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE (Kerry, W.) said it seemed to him that the attitude of the Scotch Office in this matter was very similar to that of the Irish authorities. The authorities in both countries did not appear to be friendly to the Gaelic language: their policy seemed to be directed towards—he would not say stamping the language out, but offering no facilities for its extension. That was a very great pity. Gaelic was one of the oldest languages in Europe, and it ought to be a care of the Government to preserve it. The hon. member for Ross and Cromarty merely asked that in those districts where the children spoke Gaelic a man who understood Gaelic should be employed to teach them. Surely a more modest request could not be made.

*MR. WILLIAM JONES (Carnarvon, Arfon) said the Gaelic-speaking children could never think in English. They thought in the language they were accustomed to speak in, and whenever they wanted to learn English they naturally used their own language as a basis. The encouragement given by the Education Department for the study of English through the medium of Welsh ought to be taken as a precedent and an illustration in this case. ["Hear, hear!"] In Welsh schools children learnt both English and Welsh simultaneously and with marvellous results, as is abundantly shown in Mr. Legard's recent report on Primary Education in the Principality. ["Hear, hear!"] In the interest of true education it was well that the mother tongue should be regarded as the basis of education; and, therefore, teachers in the Highlands of Scotland ought to be familiar with Gaelic. [*Cheers.*]

SIR MARK STEWART (Kirkcudbright), said that he hoped the concession which had been asked for would not be granted. If the people of the Highlands were to be handicapped with the Gaelic language their career in life would be very poor. This demand was a pure matter of sentiment. [*Cries of* "No!"]

MR. ELLIS GRIFFITH (Anglesey) said that the hon. Baronet misunderstood the position. He talked about "handicapping children with Gaelic," but he forgot that nature had already done that. The question was, how were Gaelic-speaking children best to be taught to speak English? To send a teacher who could not himself speak Gaelic was absurd.

*MR. ROBERT CAMERON (Durham, Houghton-le-Spring) said that he was perhaps the only Member of the House who could speak Gaelic, and the knowledge of that language had been an unspeakable pleasure to him. It would be a great pity if such a poetical and fluent language were allowed to die. The child who had been taught Gaelic literature properly had a great advantage over the ordinary English-speaking child.

Motion made, and Question put: "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution.

The House divided; Ayes, 127; Noes. 40.—(Division List No. 255.)

7. "That a sum, not exceeding £2,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1898, for a Grant to the Board of Trustees for Manufactures in Scotland in aid of the maintenance of the National Gallery, School of Art, and Museum of Antiquities, Scotland."

Resolution agreed to.

CLASS VII.

8. "That a sum, not exceeding £17,500, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1898, for expenditure in connection with certain Public Works, and for Improved Communications, and other purposes, within the Highlands and Islands of Scotland."

*MR. WEIR wished for information as to the communications with the outer islands. It was singular that the Jubilee year should be marked by a reduction of the means of communication between Oban and the islands.

MR. McLEOD said it was very curious that the communications with two of the counties which returned Conservatives should be cut down from two steamers to one. When the subject was last before the House, the Chancellor of the Exchequer gave a provisional promise that he would consider this matter. This was the year in which they had been asssured that letters would be delivered to every householder, and now they were going to cut down the means of delivering letters in the Highlands. He hoped the Government would reconsider the subject and bring in a supplementary estimate, thus assuring the people that the service would be continued.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE said the line of steamers had not been a success, and the Department had recommended that the two steamers should be replaced by one steamer of a larger size. The promise given with regard to postal facilities would be carried out, but it was impossible to do that without time to look into the subject which should be considered from the point of view of trade, and also from that point of view of the postal facilities.

Resolution agreed to.

SUPPLY [18TH JUNE] REPORT.

Consideration of postponed Resolution deferred till Thursday.

BERRIEW SCHOOL BILL.

Order read, for resuming Adjourned Debate on Question [24th May], "That the Bill be now Read the Third time."

Question again proposed:—Debate resumed.

MR. ELLIS GRIFFITH protested against the rushing through of this Bill, —[*laughter*]—not to correct any departmental mistake, but to satisfy an ecclesiastical interest. Of the 20 persons who signed the petition 12 had been induced by fraud to affix their names. Only eight names remained, so that there was no irregularity, and the scheme need not have been laid before Parliament. In the circumstances the House ought not to pass a Bill which was fraught with injury to the inhabitants of the district, and especially to the children.

*MR. WILLIAM JONES said that the scheme as it originally stood was almost unanimously desired in the educational interests of the district. It was a well-known fact that 12 men had signed a petition against it, because it was misrepresented to them that a new rate would be levied in consequence of the passing of the scheme. The joint Educational Committee of the county of Montgomery, composed of three Churchmen and two Nonconformists, had received absolutely no evidence against the original scheme. ["Hear, hear!"] Out of 381 County Council electors in Berriew, while 14 had refused to sign, and 18 had not been asked, all the rest had signed a petition against this Bill. ["Hear, hear!"] This clearly proved the Bill is diametrically opposed to the wishes of those who knew the educational needs and interests of the parish best. [*Cheers.*]

Question put. The House divided:—Ayes, 129; Noes, 46.—(Division List, No. 256.)

Bill read the Third time, and passed.

CONGESTED DISTRICTS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Considered in Committee.

[The CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS, Mr. J. W. LOWTHER, in the Chair.]

Clause 1,—

APPOINTMENT OF CONGESTED DISTRICTS (SCOTLAND) COMMISSIONERS.

For the purpose of administering the sums available for the improvement of congested districts in the Highlands and islands of Scotland, the following persons shall be Commissioners (called the Congested Districts (Scotland) Commissioners), that is to say:—The Secretary for Scotland, the Under Secretary for Scotland, the Chairman of the Local Government Board for Scotland, the Chairman of the Fishery Board for Scotland, the Chairman of the Crofters' Commission, and such other persons, not exceeding two, as the Secretary for Scotland may from time to time nominate.

The Secretary for Scotland may from time to time make, alter, and vary such rules as he shall deem necessary for regulating the proceedings of the Commissioners, and the times and places of their meetings.

MR. J. CALDWELL (Lanark, Mid) said he had an Amendment to move with reference to the constitution of the Congested Districts Board. He suggested that the Lord Provost of Glasgow and the Lord Provost of Edinburgh should be members of the Board. They were men of wide experience, and both in Glasgow and Edinburgh there was a considerable Highland population who were very much in sympathy with the population of the Highlands. To add these two gentlemen to the Board would have the effect of putting the Board on a more popular basis, and would give great satisfaction.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE said that this was a tentative Measure, and no doubt there was a difficulty in knowing exactly how to form the Board; but the Government had done the best they could, after mature consideration, and they seemed to have pleased at least some of the Gentlemen who sat on the opposite Benches. No doubt the Commission as constituted by the Bill had a good deal of the official element, but the officials placed upon it were for the most part permanent officials, and he was afraid the Government must stand by their scheme. Both the gentlemen suggested in the Amendment were very busy men, and accordingly, without doubting for one moment that the Board would obtain two very good men if they were added to it, he did not think they would be a practical element on the Board, because it would be too much to expect that they would be able to give much of their time to the affairs of the Board. He thought the constitution of the Commission was a matter which must really be left to the Government, and he could not accept the Amendment.

MR. CALDWELL asked leave to withdraw the Amendment.

MR. COURTENAY WARNER (Staffordshire, Lichfield) pointed out that there was no representative of the Treasury on the Board. It was entirely a Board for spending purposes, and he would be glad to know whether it was not usual to have a representative of the Treasury on such a Board?

*THE LORD ADVOCATE said that if the hon. Member looked at the Bill he would find that, although there was no representative of the Treasury on the Board, the Treasury had a good deal to say as to the spending of the money.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*Mr. WEIR moved, after the words "Crofters' Commission," to insert the words,—

"two other persons to be elected by the members of the County Councils of the counties in which the congested districts were situated, under rules and regulations to be supplied by the Secretary for Scotland.

He thought the Secretary for Scotland could not do better than to go to the County Councils of the Highland counties to select two men out of their own number who would be well acquainted with the congested districts, and who would be able to place the facts before the Board.

*Mr. HEDDERWICK observed that it was admitted by the Lord Advocate that the formation of this Board had been a matter of great difficulty, and he could well understand the difficulty of constituting a Board which should be satisfactory to everyone concerned. But in its proposed form the Board would not give complete satisfaction, nor would it supply a sufficient guarantee that the object which the Government had in view would be carried out. Who were to be the members of this Board? In the first place, there was the Secretary for Scotland, and every word that had been uttered by the Lord Advocate with reference to the Lord Provosts of Edinburgh and Glasgow applied equally to the membership of the Secretary for Scotland, who was a very busy man, engaged in London. It seemed to be the object of Parliament to keep on heaping work on the Scotch Secretary, and so to diminish the importance of the ancient office of the Lord Advocate. The present Secretary for Scotland might have a thorough knowledge of the congested districts of Scotland, but it did not follow that his successors would all have the same knowledge. The power of the Secretary for Scotland on this Board would be very large, because he was to be supported by the presence of the Under Secretary, and would have the right of appointing other members. If the Government wished to make this Bill effective and to do some good in the Highlands, they should take care that the persons who were to administer the Measure were men possessing local knowledge. The Amendment of his hon. Friend seemed to provide machinery for the appointment of at least two men who would have such knowledge, and its adoption would possibly prevent the waste of a great deal of money which the Government were devoting to the purpose of relieving the congestion. He hoped, therefore, that the power of nominating two members would be given to the County Councils. The proposal of the Amendment, it should be noted, was limited by the condition that the appointments of the County Councils were to be made subject to regulations drawn up by the Secretary for Scotland.

Mr. McLEOD reminded the Committee that a large portion of the sum to be administered by the new Board was to be withdrawn from the administration of the County Councils. A portion of this £20,000 a year was made up of savings on the Estimates, and those savings were to a large extent spent by the County Councils. Seeing that the Government were proposing to withdraw from the County Councils the whole of the money which they used to administer under the Highlands and Islands Works Act, the least that could be granted them in return was some representation on the new Board. No part of the money which Parliament had intrusted to the Highland County Councils had been misspent. Those County Councils had, in fact, shown a great amount of energy and wisdom in the expenditure of Parliamentary money, and their example might well be followed in other parts of the country. The new Board, as the Government proposed to constitute it, would be the mere creature of the Secretary for Scotland, who would command four votes as against three. That would be to give an unnecessarily large amount of power to one individual, and he held that the constitution of the Board would be considerably improved if the Amendment were accepted. Then he wished to know whether the new members of the Board were to be remunerated or not. It would be impossible to secure the services of men of ability who possessed local knowledge unless provision was made for their remuneration. The only persons who could be expected to serve on a Board of this kind without remuneration were permanent officials or parties who were interested in the administration of the Act in a particular way, and the only persons so interested would be the landlords and factors, and their presence on the Board would not meet with the approval of the Highland people.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE said that the Government must adhere to the constitution of the Commission as provided in the Bill. The proposal was to appoint two Members who would be practically popularly elected. The scheme of the Commission, rightly or wrongly, was that it should be practically under Government and Parliamentary control. That was the reason why the Secretary for Scotland was included in the body. The great advantage of Parliamentary control meant, not the power to disallow a vote but to enable the proceedings of the Commission, if need be, to be defended. In the opinion of the Government, therefore, it was better to have a Commission of this official character, looking to the novel experiment that was being made, than to have anything in the nature of a popularly elected element upon it.

MR. CALDWELL pointed out that the members were to be elected by the different county councils in the congested districts. He thought that this was a very reasonable protection as to the men to be appointed. In dealing with the elective element the Government should not forget that on the Fishery Board in Scotland there was now an elective element. Thus the principle had been recognised that the parties principally interested should be represented in order that their wants should be made known. All that the Scottish Members asked for therefore was that two men should be appointed who were directly in touch with the wants of the people of the district, and who should be enabled to make the case of the people known. The position of the Government afforded an illustration of the inconvenience arising from having the Secretary for Scotland in the House of Lords.

*MR. WEIR urged that their wish was to have practical men on the Commission. Those who had been appointed were busy men, and it was utterly impossible for them to spend eight or ten days in travelling to and from Edinburgh to visit the congested districts of the Highlands.

MR. McLEOD asked whether the gentlemen to be nominated possessing local or special knowledge were to be paid?

*THE LORD ADVOCATE said that according to the design of the Bill they were not to be paid. In the Irish case the added members were not paid; and if it was possible to get unpaid services in Ireland, he hoped that it would not be more difficult to get similar service rendered in Scotland.

DR. TANNER (Cork Co., Mid) said if the members of the Irish Board were not paid, that was no reason why they should not be paid. Hon. Gentlemen on the Treasury Bench were paid for their services, and as a matter of common sense those gentlemen who were to give their services on the Scotch Board, if their services were worth having, should have some remuneration; and payment would give control. The First Lord drew his salary, and why should not these gentlemen—why should not everybody get their wages all round? [*Ministerial laughter and cheers.*]

MR. McLEOD thought they would find on inquiry that in the case of the Congested District Board for Ireland, if there was no actual remuneration there was a very liberal allowance. The only desire he had in pressing the point—he did not expect they were going to deal with it to-night—was to impress very strongly upon the right hon. Gentleman the necessity of making some provision other than was made in the Bill as it stood. It was not fair to expect that men with special local knowledge—those were the right hon. Gentleman's words—should place their services at the disposal of the public without any provision whatever; and from past experience, he should say that unless they took means to have it put into the Bill, or there was a perfectly clear understanding on the matter, in all probability no provision would be made.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE: There is a provision for expenses in the subsection.

*MR. SERJEANT HEMPHILL (Tyrone, N.) said he should not have interfered in the debate were it not that the Lord Advocate, in referring to the analogy of Ireland, did so in a manner which he could not regard as altogether complimentary, because there was a sort of covert insinuation—[*cries of* "Oh!"]—that there were no Irishmen with sufficient public spirit to act gratuitously. [*Cries of* "Oh!"]

*THE LORD ADVOCATE: Precisely the opposite. I paid Irishmen the compliment of saying that we get very good service from them, and I expressed the pious hope that we should get the same in Scotland. ["Hear, hear!"]

*MR. SERJEANT HEMPHILL: You added that you hoped the Scotchmen would work without remuneration. However, that is a matter of very little importance. ["Hear, hear!"] The attention of Members, he thought, ought to be called to the composition of the Irish Board before they voted. It consisted of the Chief Secretary, a member of the Land Corporation, whom the Lord Lieutenant might nominate to especially represent agriculture and fishery, certain ex-officio members, and five other members. There were thus five non-official members of the Irish Board, and they were all men above suspicion of partiality or want of judicial fairness. One was an ornament to this House, another was a Roman Catholic Bishop, and they were all men in whom the public had confidence. The Irish Board thus had five members representing the public, and all that his hon. Friend the Member for Mid Lanark asked was that in the case of the Scotch Board there should be two representative members in addition to the two nominated by the Secretary for Scotland. He would not have interposed at all only he thought—as Ireland had been referred to, it might be as well that the House should know what they were doing—that they should have their eyes open, and not blindly follow the First Lord of the Treasury into the Lobby without exactly knowing what was being done under the Irish Act.

DR. TANNER said it followed from what the hon. Member who had just spoken had said that there was a real injustice towards Scotland. No doubt certain of the Scotch Members were desirous of the Bill passing, but if it passed in a crude and undigested form he believed it would do more harm than good. It was because he felt that the Lord Advocate had ill-advisedly mentioned the word Ireland—[*laughter*]—that he had thought it his duty to take part in the Debate. The Lord Advocate might be acquainted with Ireland, but he was evidently not acquainted with the constitution of the Congested Districts Board for Ireland, and it was for that reason that he had ventured for the second time in the course of eleven years to put in a word on a Scotch Bill.

Question put, "That those words be there inserted."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 53; Noes, 132.—(Division List, No. 257.)

*MR. WEIR proposed to leave out the word "two," and to insert the word "four." The Board would have to deal with an area three times as large as that of the Congested Districts Board in Ireland, yet that Board had nine members, while the Scotch Board would only have seven. He did not believe in large Boards. But the two members nominated by the Secretary for Scotland would not be sufficient to overtake the work, hence his Amendment for four. The only practical man on the Board would be the chairman of the Crofters Commission. He himself knew the difficulties of getting about in the Highlands. Lewis was the most congested part. It took eight or ten days to go from Edinburgh and back to remote parts of the island of Lewis. In that case the two would not be sufficient. The Secretary and Under Secretary for Scotland and the Chairmen of the various Boards were busy men who could not leave London or Edinburgh. Would the Secretary for Scotland be likely to visit remote parts of Lewis? Travelling was difficult and tedious in those parts, where there were no roads and not even footpaths over the wild moorland connecting the congested townships.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE said that after the declarations he had made, he must stand by the Commission as it was. But the hon. Member was scarcely accurate. He compared the district of the proposed Board with that of the Irish Congested Districts Board. But the district of the former would not cover the whole of the Crofter district, but only certain portions of it.

MR. CALDWELL said that the Government had the appointment of five official members and the other four, so they had nothing to complain of.

MR. McLEOD said the Lord Advocate had given no reason against the increase of the figure from "two" to "four." It would always be within the power of the Secretary for Scotland to nominate one, two, three, or four persons, as he might think proper, and to confine the number to two did not seem to allow sufficient latitude. He could not see how any possible danger could arise from the increase. The cast-iron attitude the Lord Advocate seemed disposed to assume towards all Amendments did not commend itself to Scotch Members, and would not facilitate progress with the Bill.

MR. J. H. DALZIEL (Kirkcaldy Burghs) hoped the Government would not take up an attitude of absolute resistance to all Amendments. There was a general desire that the Bill should pass in as perfect a shape as possible, and the Lord Advocate must recognise that his hon. Friends represented a large amount of public opinion in the Highlands, the overwhelming majority of the people in whose interest the Bill was brought forward. Circumstances might arise to render additional appointments necessary, and this Amendment did not even imply that the Commission would be increased by two extra members, it simply left the power with the Secretary for Scotland to make the appointments if, in his view, the circumstances required them. Every Member would be appointed officially and represent the view of the Government rather than of the people in whose interest the Board was constituted, and a special crofter or other question might arise in relation to which the appointment of another Commissioner as a trusted expert might give strength and popularity to the Board. Would the Lord Advocate agree to alter the word from "two" to "three" giving power to add three Commissioners?

*THE LORD ADVOCATE said he was anxious to meet the views of hon. Members, and would agree to insert the word "three" instead of the word "two."

*MR. WEIR said he would accept this compromise.

Question put, "That the word "two" be omitted and the word "three" inserted, and agreed to.

Clause, as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 2,—

SECRETARY AND OFFICERS TO BE APPOINTED FROM EXISTING OFFICERS OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

(1.) The Secretary for Scotland may appoint as Secretary to the Commissioners one of the senior officers in the department of the Secretary for Scotland, or in any Government department in Scotland, and, with the consent of the Treasury, may assign to him an additional salary. The Secretary for Scotland may also, with the consent of the Treasury, direct any of the officers in any Government department in Scotland to discharge in relation to the Commissioners such duties, not inconsistent with those of their permanent offices, as he may think proper.

(2.) The salaries or remuneration of the officers (if any) employed by the Commissioners, and the adminstrative expenses of the Commissioners, shall be fixed by the Treasury and paid out of the sums by this Act placed at the disposal of the Commissioners.

MR. CALDWELL moved in Sub-section (1) to omit the words "and, with the consent of the Treasury, may assign to him an additional salary." He said there was strong objection to handing over new duties with additional salary to officers already in Government Service. He thought it was hardly reasonable to give additional duties and salaries to men who had already sufficient salaries, and presumably had sufficient duties to do. He would rather have a permanent secretary appointed with a permanent salary, who would devote his whole time to the matter. The principle of the present proposal was wrong, and he, therefore, begged to move his Amendment.

*MR. WEIR supported the Amendment, and urged that when an official visited the charming scenery of the Highlands, he ought not to receive additional salary, as he got enjoyment and benefit to his health.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE asked hon. Members to remember that this was not a Congested Districts Board, but a Congested Districts Commission, which would be connected with the Local Government Board and with the Department of the Secretary for Scotland. It was for that reason that they proposed to take the secretary from one or other of those offices, and it was the ordinary practice to give a moderate increase of salary to an official when he suddenly had fresh duties laid upon him.

MR. CALDWELL said the secretary's duties would be of a very clerical kind, and there was an obvious advantage in having a secretary who would devote his whole time to them. He must, therefore press his Amendment.

MR. MCLEOD pointed out that the Departments were supposed to get at present the whole of the services of their officials, and if an official of the Secretary for Scotland's office were to perform these duties, he could not at the same time be performing other duties in the Secretary for Scotland's office. Therefore, there was no need for this increment of salary. The result of the present proposal would be that the office would be a mere annexe to the office of the Secretary for Scotland, which would accommodate the permanent officials. In these circumstances he agreed with his hon. Friend that, when the State was supposed to be in possession of the full services of this official, he was not entitled to any further remuneration when he was being employed in other duties.

MR. DALZIEL said that so far as he understood the proposal of the Government, it was to take power to give the Secretary for Scotland the right to add an additional salary to the permanent official who would discharge the duties of secretary of this Commission. He was surprised that it was necessary in a Bill of this kind to ask for any such power. It seemed to him quite possible for the Government to appoint a secretary and then to make their appeal in the ordinary course to the Treasury. This proposal meant that the Government were desirous of creating what they had almost pledged themselves not to do, namely, more pluralists in the public service. They ought to oppose the creation of more pluralists in the public service, and he would ask the Lord Advocate whether he did not think a Board of this kind was important enough to justify the small additional expenditure which would be necessary in order that he might give the whole of his services to the work of the Commission. There would be an immense amount of secretarial work attached to the Commission and it seemed to him that the extra hundred or two that would be necessary to secure his whole time would be money well spent. He would suggest to the Lord Advocate that he should give them a promise to consider the question before Report and see whether such a suggestion could not be arranged.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE said he should be perfectly happy to consider the matter before Report in the light of the discussion which had taken place.

MR. JOHN DILLON (Mayo, E.) pointed out that the Irish Board had a secretary at £1,000 a year who devoted the whole of his time to the work.

MR. CALDWELL said he would withdraw the Amendment on the understanding that the Lord Advocate would give the matter not merely his philosophical, but his favourable consideration.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE reminded the hon. Member that there were others to be consulted beside himself, but he would give his best consideration to the subject.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. CALDWELL moved in Sub-section (2), to leave out "disposal of the Commissioners," and to insert the words "to be annually voted by Parliament." He pointed out that if the salaries were paid out of the £15,000, which were allocated by Act of Parliament, it would exclude all review by that House of the salaries, expenses, and administration of these Commissioners. The object of his Amendment was to make it clear that the salaries and expenses were to be paid out of the £20,000 to be annually voted by Parliament, so that that House would have complete control over the action of the Commissioners.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause, as amended, ordered to stand part of Bill.

Clause 3,—

CONSTITUTION OF CONGESTED DISTRICTS (SCOTLAND) FUND; SUMS TO BE CARRIED THERETO.

For the purposes of this Act a fund (to be called the Congested Districts (Scotland) Fund) shall be constituted, to which shall, from time to time, be carried,—

(1) The sum of *fifteen thousand pounds* annually available for the improvement of congested districts in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, under and during the continuance of the Agricultural Rates, Congested Districts, and Burgh Land Tax Relief (Scotland) Act 1896; and

(2) any sums not exceeding *twenty thousand pounds* annually voted by Parliament for the said purpose and during the said continuance; and

(3) any moneys received for payment of interest or repayment of principal of any loan made by the Commissioners under the provisions of this Act; and

(4) any other sums applicable to the purposes of this Act.

*MR. HEDDERWICK moved to omit from Sub-section (2) the words "any sums not exceeding twenty thousand pounds annually voted by Parliament for the said purpose," in order to substitute the words, "any additional sum annually voted by Parliament."

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS: This Amendment is not on the Paper, and I have not seen it before. But if it means anything, it means that sums beyond the £20,000 to which the Committee has already given its assent, may be allocated by Parliament for this particular purpose, and, if that is so, it would be out of order.

*MR. HEDDERWICK said that if the Act proved a great success the Government might like to spend more than

£20,000 a year on the work, and he desired to secure by his Amendment that their hands should be free for the purpose.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS: That is an argument against the original Resolution, and the hon. Member should have made his objection when it was moved. The Committee have decided that £20,000 should be the maximum sum, and therefore the Committee cannot now go beyond that sum.

MR. CALDWELL moved to omit from Sub-section (2) the words, "during the said continuance;" he could not see the reason for those words, as he took it the £20,000 was not to be limited to five years but to be paid for ever.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE said he could not accept the Amendment; the Bill embodied the financial proposals accepted by the Treasury. After five years they would see how the Act worked and it would then be for the liberality of Parliament to provide other means.

MR. McLEOD said that the Resolution which had been submitted to the House was drawn in such terms, that until the House came to another decision the Treasury might go on paying the £20,000. Therefore the difficulty the Lord Advocate apprehended could not arise. On reading the Bill it never occurred to him for a moment that they were limited to five years, and he believed that the Lord Advocate drafted the first sub-section in its present form because he was of opinion that the Agricultural Rates Act would continue in operation for longer than five years. He was fully persuaded that if the Lord Advocate would consult the Treasury he would find that they would raise no difficulty whatever.

*MR. WEIR said there was no reason why in future they should not receive £50,000, £60,000 or even £100,000, in one year. In future years there should not be the expenditure of millions

on naval armaments. The Treasury would be in possession of considerable funds, and he hoped would not only be able but willing to put much more than £20,000 at the disposal of the Secretary for Scotland and the Congested Districts Board for Scotland.

Question put, "That the words 'and during the said continuance,' stand part of the Clause."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 137; Noes, 48.—(Division List, No. 258.)

Clause ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 4,—

APPLICATION OF MONEYS AT THE DISPOSAL OF THE COMMISSIONERS.

(1.) In applying the Congested Districts (Scotland) Fund the Commissioners may take steps as they think proper for—

(*a*) aiding and developing agriculture, and the breeding of live stock and poultry in congested districts; and

(*b*) providing suitable seed potatoes and seed oats and implements for crofters and cottars in congested districts; and

(*c*) providing, subject to the provisions hereinafter contained, land for sub-division among or for enlargement of the holdings of crofters and cottars in congested districts for the purposes of cultivation or grazing, in such manner and upon such conditions and after such adaptations as shall be determined by the Commissioners; and

(*d*) aiding migration of crofters and cottars from congested districts to other districts, and settling any migrants under favourable circumstances in the places to which they first migrate; and

(*e*) aiding and developing fishing (including industries connected with and subservient to fishing) and the formation of fishermen's dwellings and holdings in congested districts; and

(*f*) aiding the providing or improving of piers or boat-slips, public roads and bridges, and footpaths and foot-bridges, in congested districts; and

(*g*) aiding and developing spinning, weaving, and other home industries in congested districts; and

(*h*) subject to the consent of the Treasury,—

aiding the providing or improving of harbours.

(2.) The Commissioners may give their assistance either by way of gift or loan, or by way of sale at cost price, and subject to such conditions as they think fit, which conditions and the provisions for their enforcement or for the case of their violation shall be as effectual as if they were contained in this Act."

Mr. CALDWELL moved, after the word "agriculture," to insert the words "and dairy-farming."

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. CALDWELL moved, after the word "implements," to insert the words, "and dairy utensils, machinery and appliances for making butter and cheese."

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. CALDWELL moved, after the words, "other districts," to insert the words "in Scotland."

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. CALDWELL moved, in Sub-section (6), to leave out the words "public roads and bridges, and footpaths and footbridges."

Amendment agreed to.

*Mr. WEIR moved, at the end of Sub-section (6), to insert the words,—

"Providing guarantees for telegraph extensions, or such other postal facilities (including money orders and savings bank business) as may be within the power of the Postmaster General to grant under guarantee; and."

*The LORD ADVOCATE opposed the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. CALDWELL moved, in Sub-section (1), to leave out from the word "agreement" to the end of the sub-section, and to insert,—

(2.) If the Commissioners are satisfied that suitable land for the purposes of this Act cannot be acquired on reasonable terms by voluntary agreement, and that the circumstances are such as to make it proper that the Commissioners should proceed under this section, they shall publish, once at least, in each of two consecutive weeks in some newspaper circulating in the locality, an advertisement stating shortly the purpose for which the land is proposed to be taken, mentioning a place at which a plan of the proposed works (if any) may be seen at reasonable hours, and stating the quantity of land that is required. Thereafter they shall cause public inquiry to be made in the parish or district and notice to be given both publicly in the parish or district, and severally to the owners, lessees, and occupiers of the land proposed to be taken either by delivery at, or by post in a registered letter addressed to the usual or last known place of abode of such owners, lessees, and occupiers, and all persons whose interests would be affected shall be permitted to attend at the inquiry, and to support or oppose the taking of the land.

(3.) After the completion of the inquiry, and after considering all objections made by any persons whose interests would be affected, the Commissioners may make an order for putting in force, with respect to the said land or any part thereof, the provisions of the Lands Clauses Acts with respect to the purchase and taking of land otherwise than by agreement.

(4.) A copy of any Order made under this section shall be preserved by the county council in the manner in which and upon the person or persons upon whom notices in respect of such land are hereinbefore required to be served, together with a statement that the Order will become final and have the effect of an Act of Parliament unless within the period of one month after such service a memorial by some person whose interests would be affected is presented to the Local Government Board for Scotland (in this Act referred to as "the Board"), praying that the Order shall not become law without further inquiry.

(5.) The Order shall be deposited with the Board, who shall inquire whether the provisions of this section have been in all respects complied with; and, if the Board are satisfied that this has been done, then, after the expiration of the said period of one month—

(*a*) if no memorial has been presented, or if every such memorial has been withdrawn, the Board shall without further inquiry confirm the Order;

(*b*) if a memorial has been presented the Board shall proceed to hold a local public inquiry, and shall after such inquiry either confirm, with or without amendment, or disallow the Order;

(*c*) upon any such confirmation the Order, and if amended as so amended, shall become final, and have the effect of an Act of Parliament, and the confirmation by the Board shall be conclusive evidence that the Order has been duly made and is within the powers conferred by this Act, and that the requirements of this Act have been complied with;

Provided always that the Board may, and when required within the said period of one month by any party interested who has presented a memorial against the Order shall, state a special case on the question whether the proposed Order is within the powers conferred by this Act for the opinion of either division of the Court of Session, who are hereby authorised finally to determine the same along with any question of expenses.

(6.) Where the Board are authorised or required to make any inquiry under this section, they may cause such inquiry to be made by any inspector or officer of the Board or by any other person specially nominated in writing by the Board, and such inspector or officer or person shall be entitled to summon witnesses and examine them on oath, and to call for the production of books, documents, and accounts. The costs incurred in relation to such inquiry, including the remuneration of any person specially nominated to hold the same, not exceeding three guineas a day, shall be paid by the Commissioners out of the sums by this Act placed at their disposal, and the Board may certify the amount of the costs incurred, and any sum so certified shall be a debt to the Board from the Commissioners.

The provisions of Sub-sections ten, eleven, twelve, thirteen, fourteen, and fifteen of Section twenty-five of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1894, shall apply with the necessary modifications as if the Commissioners were therein referred to.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

And, it being midnight, the Chairman of Ways and Means left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report progress; to sit again upon Thursday.

MESSAGE FROM THE QUEEN.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): I beg to move "That this House do now adjourn," but I desire to take this opportunity of conveying to the House a message which I have received from Her Majesty. The Queen is distressed to hear, now for the first time, through the newspapers, that, owing to some unfortunate misunderstanding, all the Members of the House of Commons did not get into the Throne Room on Wednesday last, and thus were prevented from seeing Her Majesty, and at the same time Her Majesty was unable to see them. I have now received the Queen's gracious command to say that Her Majesty wishes to receive all the Members of the House of Commons and their wives at Windsor on the afternoon of Saturday next. [*Loud cheers, and slight Nationalist laughter.*]

SIR T. ESMONDE said that a number of Members who were interested in the Report of Supply of June 18 were very much disappointed that it had not been taken that evening. They had come down, as they had come down yesterday, and waited for the Report, and on each occasion it had been adjourned. He thought that some notice might have been given of the intention of the Government to postpone the Vote a second time, and he would like to know when the Government really intended to take it. He would suggest that it should be taken on Friday or Monday.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: I cannot, of course, be absolutely sure, but I hope to put the Report down for Monday, and I hope it will be taken on Monday.

SIR T. ESMONDE: I am much obliged to the right hon. Gentleman.

MR. DALZIEL said he desired to put a question in procedure. He wished to know why the right hon. Gentleman had taken the unusual course of moving the adjournment of the House before the Orders of the Day were disposed of.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY said he did not think any injury had been done. There were 90 Orders of the Day on the Paper, and they could not all be got through.

DR. TANNER contended that the right hon. Gentleman had made a mistake, and a gross mistake.

Question, "That this House do now adjourn," put and agreed to.

House adjourned accordingly
at Ten Minutes after
Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Wednesday, 30th June 1897.

SUPPLY [18TH JUNE] REPORT.

Consideration of postponed Resolution deferred from To-morrow till Monday next.

ISLE OF MAN (CHURCH BUILDING ACTS) BILL [H.L.].

Second Reading upon Monday next.

VEHICLES (LIGHTS) BILL.

Committee deferred till Wednesday next.

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

PLUMBERS' REGISTRATION BILL.

Order for consideration, as amended (by the Standing Committee), read,

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now considered."

GENERAL LAURIE (Pembroke and Haverfordwest) proposed to leave out the word "now," and at the end of the Question to add the words "upon this day three months." He took this somewhat unusual course because the Measure had obtained a Second Reading somewhat unexpectedly. That the Bill had not been carefully drafted was shown by the fact that the hon. Member in charge of it had himself put down 20 Amendments upon the Paper on the present stage. Objection to the Measure had been taken by the National Association for Promoting Technical Education, by the City and Guilds of London Institute, by the Association of Organizing Secretaries and Directors, by the Association of Technical Institutes, by the London Polytechnic Council, by the committees and principals of London Polytechnic Institutes, by the County Councils Association, and by the technical education committees of 32 county councils and county boroughs. The objects of the Bill were, he thought, desirable to a large extent, but the Measure contained many objectionable features. In the first place it did not prohibit the practising of unqualified plumbers. It further proposed to take the control of the training and examining machinery out of the hands of the bodies that were now efficiently supervising it, and to place it exclusively, as regarded the whole of the United Kingdom, in the hands of the Master and Wardens of the Plumbers' Company. This was an extraordinary proposal in face of the fact that since 1881 the City and Guilds of London Institute had examined more than 10,000 candidates for registration, and that when the Government of the day placed a large sum of money in the hands of the county councils for the purpose of carrying into effect a system of technical education, the City and Guilds of London Institute were called in to aid the county councils in establishing the necessary machinery. Why should these bodies who had done such good work be superseded by the Plumbers' Company, who were a new body altogether in connection with this subject? The Plumbers' Company had already a right under their charter to supervise the training and examination of plumbers within three miles of the City, but that was no reason why that power should be extended over the whole of the United Kingdom, to the exclusion of those possessed by other bodies. The Bill proposed to create a National Council for the United Kingdom, of 24 members—12 for England, and six each for Scotland and Ireland—who were to be elected at 24 centres. Was it to be supposed that the constituents would be got together in sufficient numbers at the electoral meetings, and was it reasonable that the Returning Officer, who was to be the chairman of each meeting, and whose decision was to be final upon all questions relating to the elections, should be the Master of the Plumbers' Company. There was no provision in the Bill for obtaining the necessary funds for defraying the expenses of the machinery by means of fees, neither was provision made for a curriculum of education or training, or for the mode of examination. In these circumstances he failed to see the utility of the Measure, and he therefore proposed that the consideration of the Bill should be deferred for three months in the hope that before it was reintroduced the different technical bodies would have an opportunity of meeting and consulting with the Plumbers' Company, and of agreeing on a really workable Measure. On these grounds he begged to move that the Bill be considered that day three months. [" Hear, hear!"]

MR. LLOYD MORGAN (Carmarthen, W.) seconded the Amendment.

MR. LEES KNOWLES (Salford, W.) thought that the hon. and gallant Gentleman had no right to complain that the Bill had passed a Second Reading, seeing that it had been approved by the House in 1892. The training and examination of plumbers was absolutely necessary for the security of public health. It was not desired by the Bill to prevent unqualified persons from carrying on the business of plumbing, but merely to let the public know who had passed through an adequate training and examination. With regard to the attack his hon. Friend had made on the Plumbers' Company, it was not the Plumbers' Company who had instituted this movement of their own accord. They were asked to do so by the great Congress of Hygiene which met in London in 1884, and he would refer his hon. Friend to a still more recent date, 1891, when there was a special meeting of the Seventh International Congress on Hygiene, held to consider the subject of the registration of plumbers in relation to the public health; and, on the motion of the Lord Provost of Edinburgh, seconded by the Chairman of the Health Committee of Glasgow, and supported by the Mayor of Manchester and the medical officers of Dublin, a resolution was passed, requesting the Plumbers' Company to take action with a view to legislation of the kind now proposed. It would be seen that the Plumbers' Company was asked to deal with this subject. They were looked upon as the most competent body to deal with it. If his hon. Friend would look at the evidence given before the Select Committee, he would see that there was no monopoly at all contemplated by the Bill. He remembered the evidence given to that effect. The question of monopoly was always cropping up, and it had to be met. His hon. Friend should look at the evidence. He remembered the answer to Question 56:—

> "Q.—Do you consider that if registration were granted to the plumbers it would create a monopoly?
>
> "A.—No, certainly not; because the public would not be under any greater compulsion to employ registered plumbers than they are at present. Virtually, the registered system only provides a means for enabling the public to employ plumbers who have given evidence of their qualification, and who are subject to the rules of the registering body."

GENERAL LAURIE: It was the monopoly of registration that I meant.

MR. LEES KNOWLES said he was coming to that. His hon. Friend was honourably connected, as he knew, with the City and Guilds of London Institute; and he inferred that his chief object was, if not to substitute the City and Guilds of London Institute for the Plumbers' Company throughout the Bill, at all events to give it a prominent place. Now, he was credibly informed that the examinations of the City and Guilds Institute could not be accepted for registration purposes for the following, amongst other reasons. In the first place, the examinations had been proved to be worthless as tests of even moderate efficiency, as was shown by particulars of typical cases to which he should allude presently. The examinations were carried out by a person or persons appointed by the Institute, but in whose appointment the body of plumbers had no voice, and in whom, therefore, they had no confidence. In the second place, in the examinations by the Institute the test of workmanship was optional, with the result that of the number of persons examined at the last examination by the Institute—his hon. Friend had boasted of the number passed at those examinations—only 10 per cent. passed the practical test, as shown by the report of the Institute itself. The result was to cause the workmen themselves to discredit the examinations and to destroy their confidence in the effect and value of the instruction given by public bodies. Here were two or three cases in point, names being omitted for obvious reasons. An operative plumber, who had passed the Institute's examination, first class in the honours grade, and had been awarded by the Institute their silver medal and the Company's prize of £3, failed to pass the Company's examination in practical work, and his work in the theoretical examination was very inferior. Three operative plumbers, who had passed the Institute's examination, first class in the honours grade, passed the Company's examination in practical work, but their work in the theoretical examination was very inferior. An operative plumber who had passed the Institute's examination first class in the honours grade, failed to pass the Company's examination in practical work, and his theoretical work was very inferior. He could give other illustrations.

GENERAL LAURIE asked what Report the hon. Member was quoting?

MR. LEES KNOWLES said it was a Report of the Plumbers' Company upon their examinations. The Plumbers' Company dealt practically as well as theoretically with plumbing. They had started systems of education and examination throughout the country; and if his hon. Friend wished to know what the opinion of the work of the Plumbers' Company was in Lancashire, he would refer him to a Report of Mr. J. A. Bennion, M.A., Director of Technical Instruction in the County Palatine of Lancaster; and what he said on page 11 was this—alluding to the Plumbers' Company's work with which his hon. Friend seemed to find so much fault:—

> "The Company's regulations have the merit of providing that no certificate is issued except to those passing the practical test of workmanship, as well as that of knowledge in theoretical subjects. The importance of this condition can hardly be exaggerated, for the certificates which are issued to the students in technical classes on the result of theoretical examinations conducted in other centres are discredited by the workmen, who have coined the expressive term for the holders of such certificates—'paper plumbers."

So that the workmen themselves did not consider they were efficient plumbers unless they had passed the Plumbers' Company's examinations. His hon. Friend found fault with what he called the machinery of the Bill. The machinery of the Bill already existed; what they wanted to do was to legalise the existing machinery. He pointed to the schedule of examination centres in which the Bill was to be worked. These centres already existed, and if there should be any omission, surely that omission could be supplied by an Amendment on the part of his hon. Friend, and personally, if the hon. Gentleman suggested any real Amendment of the Bill, he should be very happy to accept it. As to the question of expenses, if his hon. Friend thought no proper provision had been made for the expenses of working the Bill, he could move to amend the fees. He had said something about the cost of the Bill. He held in his hand a Resolution authorising the cost of this legislation to be defrayed by the Plumbers' Company. It seemed to him that the Company had acted in a most considerate way. They were asked by the Congresses of 1884 and 1891 to take up and deal with this difficult subject. They had done so, and were paying for it out of their own funds; and it seemed to him very selfish that they should be attacked in this way by the representative of the City and Guilds of London Institute. If any reasonable and proper attempts to amend the Bill were made, he for one should be only too willing to accept them.

MR. HENRY HOBHOUSE (Somerset, E.) said nobody would depreciate the long-continued labours of the hon. Member for Salford on behalf, nor the excellence of the ultimate object at which it aimed—namely, the promotion of the public health. But grave considerations, educational and otherwise, were raised by the form in which the Bill came before the House; and he doubted whether it was possible in the limited time available this Session to produce a Measure that would satisfactorily attain the object aimed at. He had been asked by the County Council Committee and by some of the great technical institutes which gave instruction in plumbing and the allied sciences, to enter the strongest possible protest against the Bill in its present form, and to ask the promoters of the Bill and the Government, who had taken it under their patronage, to consider carefully whether large concessions ought not to be made to those who for many years had shown a very practical and substantial interest in the improvement of the plumbing industry. The object of the Bill was two-fold—to improve plumbing, and to give the public protection against incompetent plumbers. As to the second object, the second subsection of Clause 13 raised grave apprehensions that the Bill would do more harm than good. It was proposed to put on the register every employer of plumbers in connection with the businesses of builders, ironmongers, sanitary engineers, or other like occupations who were engaged in the business prior to the 1st of March, 1892. It was a pretty large order that all these gentlemen were to be put on the register without any test examination whatever. ["Hear, hear!"] He ventured to ask whether a register which began in that way was likely to be any protection whatever to the public? Was it not far more likely to mislead the public when every person who came into any one of these wide categories was to be entitled to advertise himself as a plumber registered under the Act? Surely, considering that no penalties were placed on the practice of plumbing by unregistered persons, it would be perfectly possible, and far more consistent with the objects the promoters of the Bill had at heart, to have left off any of these persons who could not satisfy the Council by a proper examination that they were really efficient and proper plumbers. With regard to the second, and perhaps the more important object of the Bill, namely, the improvement of the plumbing industry, he desired to say that why he objected to the Bill in its present form was that it practically ignored those authorities—with the exception of the Plumbers' Company—who had spent money and trouble for years past in improving the plumbing business. He should have thought that if the Plumbers' Company were really desirous to pass a great Measure for improving the plumbing industry, the first step they would have taken would have been to have consulted with those authorities who were holding plumbing classes all over the country. He spoke in this matter for the county authorities, and he had a list in his hand which might, perhaps, give some new information to the House. He found that at the present moment there were in England alone 15 County Councils and 36 county boroughs who were holding plumbing classes in various parts of the country, and there were a considerable number of such classes in Ireland and Scotland. The figures of the students educated every year by these local authorities had increased from 1,550 in 1892 to 3,488 in 1897. These authorities, almost without exception, utilised the examinations of the City of London Guilds. He was in no way connected with that institution, whose examinations were thorough and complete, although this was disputed by his hon. Friend.

MR. LEES KNOWLES: Only as to the practical portion of the work.

MR. HOBHOUSE would read to the House a few words from a letter sent to him by the Hon. Secretary to the Technical Institute of England and Scotland, an association which included nearly all the very large institutions which had been set up for the furtherance of technical education. This gentleman said the reason the members of his body wished to have the words relating to the examinations struck out of the Bill, was because they did not wish to see the Plumbers' Company made the statutory examining body. Most of them thought the examination of the City of London Guilds Institute in plumbers' work was much better than would be examination by the Plumbers' Company, who had no uniform standard. The directors and organising secretaries of technical education bodies as a whole had agreed to certain resolutions, proposing large modifications in the examining provisions of the Bill. Therefore the House could not take the views of Mr. Bennion (which had been quoted by his hon. Friend) as at all representing the expert opinion on the subject of these examinations. He might mention that the County of Surrey had in the last few years spent nearly £1,100 on plumbers' classes. He should like to know what the figures were of the Plumbers' Company as to the amount of money they had spent during the last few years, and the work they had done in this direction.

MR. LEES KNOWLES interposed the observation that all the information was before the Select Committee in 1892.

MR. HOBHOUSE said the House wanted more recent information. The circumstances had greatly altered since 1892. In that year none of the county boroughs scarcely were at work, but now they had all been at work for years. It was, therefore, no good to tell the House that this Measure was approved by a Select Committee in 1892, on the information then at their disposal, when all the circumstances had changed, and when local authorities had a far stronger claim to be consulted on this point and to be adequately represented on this Council than they had five years ago. He thought they should be able to show that if this Council was ever elected, it would be formed of a body which was not very fitted for educational purposes at all events, though it might possibly represent the views of the Plumbers' Company and a limited number of the trade. But this was really a broad question. This was the first proposal that had ever been seriously made to register the members of a trade as distinguished from the members of a profession, and that House ought to see that in establishing what might be a great guild, controlling a trade and in close connection with a City Company, such a Measure as this was based on sound and satisfactory lines which might be made applicable to other trades if need be. The House, in setting up a new authority to control the plumbing industry, and to say who were to be admitted as registered plumbers in the future, ought to see that the great educational institutions and authorities that had spent so much time and trouble on education were properly represented on that body, and unless wide concessions were promised on these points, on which some of them felt strongly, they would be under the necessity of voting for the Amendment of his hon. Friend.

*THE SECRETARY TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. T. W. RUSSELL, Tyrone, S.) desired to state at once what the views of the Government were upon this question. The House would do well to remember that this was not a Government Bill, but that of a private Member, which received a Second Reading without any intervention on the part of the Government at all. ["Hear, hear!"] The Debate came on at half-past 11 o'clock at night, and the only way in which the Government interposed was that after the principle of the Bill had been affirmed by the Second Reading, they supported a Motion referring it to a Standing Committee. The Bill went to such Committee, of which it was quite true that he was a member, and he considered it his duty, as representing the Local Government Board—the public health department of the country—to do what he could to make the Measure as workmanlike as possible. But in doing that he by no means took any responsibility for the Bill, which was one the House must deal with from its own standpoint and on its own responsibility. ["Hear, hear!"] The proposal made had been described by his hon. Friend as unusual. He himself thought it was not only unusual, but that it was, perhaps, a little unreasonable. ["Hear, hear!"] What was the brief history of this question? This Bill had been before the House for something like six or seven years. In 1892 it was read a Second time and sent to a Select Committee. That Select Committee took evidence and reported the Bill to the House. In 1893 the Bill was again introduced, read a Second time, and referred to the Standing Committee on Trade, that Committee, he understood, refusing to proceed further with it because the Local Government Board was not represented upon it. Then the Bill was introduced this Session, Read a Second time, and sent to the Standing Committee on Trade, by whom it was largely amended, he admitted, at the instance of the Local Government Board. Neither in 1892, 1893, nor in 1897 had any local authority, guild, or institute demanded representation. The rejection of the Bill had been moved because claims had not been fairly considered which had never been made. The Motion was not only unusual, but unreasonable. The Government approved of the principle of the Bill, thinking that in the interests of public health there should be registration of plumbers. ["Hear, hear!"] The Bill practically placed the entire control of the examinations, and everything connected with the Bill, in the hands not so much of the Plumbers' Company as of the General Council, which consisted of eight master plumbers eight operative plumbers, and eight representatives of urban or rural district councils. Urban and rural district councils and councils of boroughs had been mentioned in the Bill, and not the county councils, because to the former was intrusted the carrying out of the law relating to public health. The great distinction between the examinations of the Plumbers' Company and those of the guilds and institutes was that the latter, as far as practical workmanship was concerned, were purely optional, but those of the Plumbers Company were absolutely compulsory. The Lancashire County Council were so much impressed by this fact that they conducted their examinations under the Plumbers' Company's rules, because the Company's examinations were not only theoretical but practical. He admitted that in the clauses of the Bill there was room for improvement as regarded the machinery of the Bill. The Government would keep an open mind with respect to the Amendments on the Paper, but he asked the House not to prevent their consideration by rejecting the Bill. ["Hear, hear!"].

*Mr. T. P. WHITTAKER (York, W.R., Spen Valley) objected to the Bill, owing to the source from which it sprang and the purposes at which it aimed. The object of the promoters of the Bill was not the improvement of public health, but to secure a monopoly for a trade and privileges and powers for a City Company. The latter were taking advantage of the feeling about plumbers to get traders and workpeople generally into their hands. The masters and workmen were willing to assent to an arrangement of the kind, because examinations and fees would tend to keep men out of the trade. The plumbing trade had suffered severely in recent years, because of the tendency of large firms to undertake the plumbing with the gas fitting, decorating, drains, and the electric light. Plumbers did not readily embrace other trades, and so other trades were embracing theirs, which was being gradually squeezed out as a separate trade. This was why the plumbers were supporting this Bill. Mr. Anderton, President of the United Operative Plumbers' Association of Great Britain, in his evidence before the Standing Committee, admitted his desire to have plumbers' work taken out of all general building contracts and made separate. He thought that a man who was a plumber pure and simple would give more time and attention to his business than a general builder or contractor could give to the plumbing. The general builder he added, should not capture profits that would come to the plumber alone. Mr. Anderton's evidence showed that a monopoly for his trade was alone what they were aiming at, and not the improvement of the public health. In the Bills of 1892, 1894, and 1895, two-thirds of the men to be elected were plumbers, and they were to select a number of others who would always be in a minority. It was the little men who did the work badly, but plumbing work done by the large firms was well done. The little men, however, wanted to secure the trade for themselves. The result of registration, he ventured to say, would be that they wouldn't secure better work. The great difficulty in the trade was not a want of knowledge, but a want of conscience; it was not a want of skill, but a want of honesty. ["Hear, hear!"] No system of registration such as suggested in this Bill would provide for honesty or conscience. The Bill would do nothing in the direction of securing competent workmen. The employer of plumbers might be a competent man and get registered under the Bill, but there were no requirements that the men he employed should be competent men; there was no requirement that he should employ a registered plumber. There was no guarantee that they would get a competent workman. The whole thing was a delusion, and it would do great harm, for it would create a false security. There was no guarantee that a man would be tested in any way, or that he had passed the slightest examination. Large firms of decorators could not be registered, but some of these firms employed the most competent workmen, yet these men were to be working for masters who could not be registered as plumbers under this Bill. Then it was said that jerry builders take plumbing work and give it to some Jack-of-all-trades. That was true, but this Bill did not stop it. They had no more guarantee under the Bill than they had now that the work would be satisfactorily done. This Bill did not make registration compulsory. It was optional now. In the sanitary works were drains. Plumbers did not put in drains. There was no provision for the drains, which ought to be examined by sanitary inspectors, and that was done now. Then he objected to registration being placed in the hands of a City Company. As indicating the modes of these City Companies in promoting their own interest he mentioned that this Plumbers Company invited Members of that House to dine with them last night. It was not creditable to that House that that should be done, but indicated the methods of these City Companies.

MR. LEES KNOWLES: I may mention that I did not attend the dinner.

CAPTAIN PIRIE (Aberdeen, N.): I may mention that I was at the dinner. [*Laughter.*]

*MR. WHITTAKER described the Bill as ludicrous, and as to the statement of the hon. Member (Mr. T. W. Russell) that a previous Bill was dropped because a representative of the Local Government Board was not in attendance, there was no indication of that in the Resolution passed. The Resolution was that the Bill was a bad one. The Bill this year was no better. It was still unworkable, and as to the general council, it would simply transfer the powers given to it to the Company. The method of election of this General Council had been the great problem to the promoters of the Bill. The first scheme was thrown overboard, and a new one was devised by the Select Committee, but it was so unsatisfactory that the Grand Committee knocked it on the head completely, and the Local Government Board prepared the present scheme which was extremely complicated and absolutely unworkable. One illustration would show the absurdity of the scheme. Northumberland, Durham, Cumberland, and Westmoreland were to form one area, and the people of those four counties, who were to elect representatives on the General Council, were to meet for the purpose at Newcastle-on-Tyne. Every member of every borough, urban, and rural council, every sanitary inspector, and every medical officer, every working plumber, and every employer of plumbers in those four counties were to constitute the meeting. Did anyone believe that all those people would be got to meet at Newcastle-on-Tyne to elect representatives on the General Council which is to manage the negotiations of plumbers? Why this scheme was one of the most ludicrous things that had ever been laid before Parliament. There were 2,000 of those borough, urban, and rural councils in the country in England and Wales alone, and the members of those bodies were to be summoned to meet with the forty or fifty thousand plumbers of the country to elect a few individuals on the General Council. Then the process of election when those bodies were brought together was most absurd. The members selected in each area must be residents in that area. Twenty-four members were to be selected. Eight were to be employers of plumbers, not more than two were to come from one area, and the people of each area were only to vote for residents in that area. Therefore if the most competent plumber in the country resided in a small area, and he got the vote of every man in that area, it would be impossible for him to get on the General Council, because the people in other areas could not vote for him. The whole thing was an absurdity from first to last. If it were important for the health of the country that plumbers should be registered, let the Local Government Board take up the matter and bring in a Bill, and not leave it to a wretched City Company. No arrangement was made in the Bill, as it was originally presented to the House, for the re-election of the Council. It was left to the Council to make its own rules, bye-laws, and regulations for re-election. That was a nice method of starting a scheme which was supposed to involve the principle of popular representation—to leave the thing entirely in the hands of a City Company. Then this City Company wanted to take charge of the course of education of the plumbers. There was nothing to prevent the Company from excluding teachers who were trained in any of the other technical schools of the country, such as the technical schools of the County Councils. Indeed, the Company had already acted in that way.

MR. LEES KNOWLES pointed out that the Plumbers' Company had, at the suggestion of county councils, held their examinations in five centres.

*MR. WHITTAKER contended that the registration of plumbers should not be in the hands of a City Company; and, even if it should, this was a clumsy and impossible Measure. It should be withdrawn and introduced next Session, with the City Company wiped out of it, and a body thoroughly representative of technical education formed for the purposes of the Bill. This was the first occasion on which the House was asked to provide registration for an ordinary trade. It would be looked upon as a precedent in the future, and it was therefore worth while to see that the first Measure was a reasonable, sensible, and workable one.

Dr. FARQUHARSON (Aberdeenshire, W.) said he had a better opinion of human nature than the hon. Member who had just sat down, and he was sorry the hon. Member had introduced a jarring personal note into the discussion of a question of reform. ["Hear, hear!"] He knew something of the Plumbers' Company, and he asserted that they were an honourable and high-minded body, who from the very beginning of their history had been spending their money generously on the sanitary education of plumbers, and whose work had received the highest approval of the sanitary authorities of the country. It had been said that there were no practical men amongst them. On the contrary, the Plumbers' Company was a hundred strong, and contained the very best representatives of practical plumbing throughout the country. Education and registration might not give a guarantee that work would be well done, but they gave a presumption. Education would increase the sense of responsibility, and registration would improve the status. He hoped that the House would be allowed to get to the discussion of the practical part of the Bill.

Mr. LEES KNOWLES said that the hon. Member for the Spen Valley was in error in supposing that the Plumbers' Company would benefit by the Bill. They would not benefit to the extent of one penny. There was an Amendment on the Paper to meet that point.

Mr. SYDNEY GEDGE (Walsall) said that the Grand Committee had evidently given but perfunctory attention to the Bill, which ought to be recommitted. For instance, it was provided that the meetings for electing members of the General Council were to be held every five years; but later on it was provided that the General Council was only to exist for three years.

Mr. Whittaker.

Mr. LEES KNOWLES said that there was an Amendment on the Paper to meet the point.

Mr. GEDGE said that it showed how carelessly the Bill had been examined by the Grand Committee. In Clause 3 there were three sub-sections, referring respectively to England, Scotland, and Ireland. Then came some words which, by the way they were limited, must refer to the three sub-sections; and yet they concluded thus:—

> "Provided always that not more than two persons resident in the same district shall be eligible for election under this sub-section."

Mr. LEES KNOWLES said that there was an Amendment on the Paper to meet that point also. [*Laughter.*]

Mr. GEDGE said that a large number of Amendments would have to be made. The machinery for electing the general council was very cumbrous. And then the 47 elected members were to have the power of electing 20 more from the nominees of 63 bodies, "and other bodies having kindred objects." Was it conceivable that these bodies would take the trouble to nominate persons who might or might not be chosen? The Bill was unworkable and badly drawn, and would benefit nobody but the lawyers. He must oppose it.

Mr. MICHAEL AUSTIN (Limerick, W.) said that one of the strong arguments in favour of the Bill was that it was supported by the practical plumbers of Great Britain and Ireland. On that ground no labour Member would be found to oppose it. Resolutions in favour of the Bill had been passed by the plumbers all over the United Kingdom. He knew nothing about the City Companies, but he knew that the Bill on its merits deserved the support of the House.

Mr. EDWARD BOND (Nottingham, E.) said that he, as a member of the London Polytechnic Council, had put down Amendments to the Bill. The body which he represented viewed with approbation the principle of registration; but they thought that the machinery of the Bill was cumbrous and almost incapable of Amendment, and that too much responsibility and power was thrown upon the Plumbers' Company. He did not wish, however, to say a word against that Company's work, which had been well and zealously done, in favour of registration.

He regretted that more attention had not been paid to the representations of different technical education bodies throughout the country which had done much to improve the technical education of plumbers among other workmen. Inasmuch as the Bill would be difficult satisfactorily to amend in the time at disposal, he should vote for the Amendment, in order that another Bill might be brought in, in which better means would be provided for the election and constitution of the general council.

Mr. JOHN BURNS (Battersea) was going to oppose the Bill lock, stock, and barrel. He dissented entirely from the view that there was a need for the Bill to the extent represented. When the Bill was conceived 10 or 15 years ago local authorities neglected plumbing, and were somewhat indifferent to sanitation, and the plumbing trade was perhaps at its lowest ebb. But since that time there had been a revolution, he was glad to say, in domestic hygiene and sanitation, and local authorities had made considerable headway in undoing the mischievous neglect of the past. The Bill put a ring fence and a protectionist enclosure round the small master plumber, who was being knocked out by the more scientific large builder and the skilled master plumber who employed good workmen at excellent rates of wages. ["Hear, hear!"] He did not believe there was any public necessity for the Bill, or a particular demand for it, or that, given those conditions, this was the best way to bring the reform about. A man might pass the highest examination as a plumber and he might be smothered in certificates, but if economic pressure on the master and commercial incentive in the workman made both conspire to poison a customer with typhoid or sewer gas, no amount of certification or registration would prevent that undesirable end. What they had to do in the matter of plumbing was what public authorities had done in regard to everything. They had to test the work when performed, leaving complete freedom of action in carrying it out, just in the same way as the local authority did in the matter of house and other drains. There was just as strong an argument for the certification of all men who were engaged in the making of local and house drains as there was for plumbers. If they wanted to protect the public against defective plumbing the certification of plumbers would not do it; what this House must do, and one day they would do, was to declare in relation to plumbing what the local authority had declared in relation to drains and sewers, and that all plumbing should be passed by the Sanitary Authority Inspector in the same way as he now passed house and other drains. That would be better than this pettifogging Bill, conceived at a feast, drafted by monopolists, and devised only in the interests of protecting the dying remnants of a trade that had too long been neglected. Eight master plumbers, or others connected with the trade, were to be associated with eight operative plumbers and eight other persons, members of borough or other local councils, officers of health or inspectors, so that upon this council the plumbing trade, masters and men, would be in an overwhelming majority as against the sanitary inspectors. When the London County Council wanted reform of the Building Act, what did it do? It did not make builders and bricklayers a tribunal together with the architect of the Council, it came to the House with proposals for the revision of the Building Acts, and for a revolution of the conditions under which houses were erected. The proposals were opposed by builders, especially by jerry-builders, while not many workmen were enthusiastically in favour of the reform. The history of every sanitary and popular reform in the construction of sewers and drains showed that improvements were brought about by influences outside the trade, by experts, by the Press, and by the force of educated public opinion against the vested interests of masters and men in the trade, and so it would be with the plumbing trade, in whose interest this Bill was drafted. The Bill would interfere with that educational work, by which alone good plumbing could be secured. Of course he was in favour of good craftsmen being educated as well as possible, plumbers as well as others, to heighten the standard of good work and give fair play to every man who wanted to learn a trade. All that was very well. But this Bill would go far to destroy the educational authority of many institutions which had sprung into existence in connection with technical education in boroughs and counties. ["Hear, hear!"] In his own district he had gone to the Trades Unions and begged men to come into the classes, and at street corners he had urged workmen, bricklayers, plumbers, and others, in their own interest, for the improvement of their wages and condition to get as much education as they could. The effect of this education had been greater than the friends of this Bill were willing to admit. When these educational agencies were doing so well, there came in the Plumbers' Company with registration proposals. Of the Company, he would say no more than that they had done well in diverting money from feasting to educational purposes, and that to a greater extent than his hon. Friend the Member for Spen Valley allowed. Educate, certainly, but why register and put labels on plumbers any more than on bricklayers or others? He was not opposed to registration and certification where the public interest demanded it and safety to life and limb made it necessary. When the Board of Trade tested a boiler it did not give a certificate to the boiler maker. When a ship was launched it was not on a certificate held by the shipbuilder. When the ship was ready for sea, then the Board of Trade inspectors swarmed over her, and only when the completed output was examined and found to be up to the standard of efficiency, was the ship registered. If that could be done for plumbing work what the Board of Trade did for shipbuilding he would not object; but no, the quality of the certified man's work must be left uninspected, no notice would be taken of the final result of the man's labour. He could not understand this mania for registration here, and labelling there, it was a survival from a savage condition of society. The men did not want this Bill. Though he was identified with Trades Unions, and had among his constituents a large number of men connected with the building trade, he had not had a man speak to him upon this Bill in the last three or four years. It was not wanted, and it would establish conditions that would lead to espionage. He could conceive a good plumber unable to read or write, who could make a good joint and turn out good work, and could not squeeze through an examination that 99 out of a hundred Parsees, who knew nothing of plumbing, would pass more readily than the same number of Englishmen who had served an apprenticeship to the trade. What would be the effect of such a Bill on the mobility of labour? It would restrict the movement of labour, which he was glad to see so free. If a man were registered in London, and had the opportunity of a job in Manchester or Liverpool, the mere fact of registration by a local authority and a little trouble in obtaining a transfer would act as an impediment to the movement of a man to where work and wages called him. It would interfere with the mobility of labour and check the versatility of industry. He could conceive eight master plumbers and eight operative plumbers looking with disfavour on the changes taking place in the trade. Iron and steel pipes were being rapidly substituted for lead work, and some day glass and enamelled pipes would take the place of much lead now used. Much as he would like to see plumbing carried out in England on the lines followed in the best buildings in America, the whole of the plumbing work from roof to drains being open to view and periodical inspection. The Bill would not bring that about, it would tend to increase the secrecy of the plumbing craft, placing it in the hands of men not interested in the scientific development of the trade on the lines demanded for public health and convenience. The passing of the Bill would call into existence a new school of plumbers, gentlemen who would be able to cram through the examination, and when that was passed would rest content with having got through, and would not be interested to develop their trade through the Union, the Polytechnic, or their employers. If the Bill passed, it would erect a ring fence round a trade where there was no demand for it, and if there was such a demand it ought not to be granted by placing authority in the hands of a body of men who would be tempted to defend the interest of the trade as they conceived it, and to act contrary to the requirements of true sanitation and the public health and welfare. Because it was not wanted, because it was badly drafted, because good work could always be secured for good wages, the test of good workmanship, because it would create a class of

City Corporation plumbers who would object to the hard work of plumbing, but fortified with a certificate would get jobs they would be unable to get if they were subjected to practical test, because the plumbing trade would not be benefited but injured by it, he should vote against the Third Reading of the Bill.

On the return of Mr. SPEAKER, after the usual interval,

*MR. THOMAS BUCKNILL (Surrey, Epsom) said the County of Surrey had taken an active part in technical education, and had taken an interest in the education and improvement of practical operative plumbers, and he, therefore, wished to say a few words about this Bill. The Surrey County Council had expressed a strong opinion in favour of the object of the Bill, and thought that it was a good Bill, which, however, required amendment. After listening to the speeches which had been made he had come to the conclusion that the Bill should be allowed to proceed. He admitted that there were clauses which would apparently clothe the Company with too much power, and which, it might be argued, would injure those bodies and associations which had spent a considerable amount of money in the education of the operative plumber. He hoped that when this Bill had passed, these other bodies and associations would join hands with the Plumbers' Company to the ultimate benefit of the individual plumber and of the public generally. He pointed out that the 9th Clause appeared to give very considerable power to the Company. He understood, however, that the hon. Member in charge of the Bill was not averse to accepting Amendments. He thought the country would have more confidence if the Government would see that examinations were held. He had wondered where the hon. Member for Battersea had got his instructions from, if he might venture to say so, as he had said that he had not been spoken to by any of his constituents in regard to the Bill for two years, and the hon. Member could not, therefore, be said to represent the opinion of the great army of plumbers who lived in his constituency. He would remind the hon. Member that he was a member of the London County Council, and the London County Council had not criticised the Bill in a hostile manner, but had confined themselves to an Amendment of a purely formal character. Everyone had spoken in favour of the Bill except the hon. Member for Battersea, and he would point out to the hon. Member that the Bill would not alter the law in regard to inspection. The Bill would not injure the plumber, and a master would still keep a good workman in his employ even if he could not read or write. The Bill would do good, and would have the effect of providing better men. Finally, the recorded opinions of operative plumbers themselves were in favour of registration. At Liverpool, in September, 1890, and again in June, 1895, resolutions were passed by operative plumbers in favour of it. At the latter meeting, which was held by the United Operative Plumbers' Association of Great Britain and Ireland, there were delegates present from West Lancashire, Cheshire, and North Wales, and there was another meeting of delegates of the same association held at Sheffield, at which also a resolution was passed in favour of the principle of the Bill. In addition to this, there had been no less than 16,000 petitioners from the British Medical Association, and 70 municipal Corporations and County Councils had petitioned in favour of the Bill. He had been told also that the Surrey County Council had on five occasions invited the Plumbers' Company to conduct the examination of plumbers.

MR. A. H. DYKE ACLAND (York, W.R., Rotherham) said that what they had to take into account in considering whether they were to support this Bill was what the attitude of the House of Commons ought to be in setting a precednt in regard to the registration of this or other trades. Many hon. Gentlemen had said that they were in favour of the principle of the Bill. It was quite possible that registration of plumbers, as well as the registration or certification of doctors and others, might be good in principle, but it was much more difficult to say anything in favour of the principle of a Bill if the method was thoroughly unsatisfactory, as he thought the method of this Bill was. Much had been made of the fact that the Bill had been before the House of Commons on and off for five or six years; but, as had been pointed out with great force, since the

Bill was introduced the great county and urban authorities had been set up, which had taken great interest in technical instruction. Surely that altered the position immensely. There were now popular bodies in existence which employed examining authorities to take up work of this sort, and they were not sufficiently represented in the Bill. He should have thought that the ideal Bill would have tried to adopt some system on which they could make the local authorities almost the sole authorities for this work, with a responsible central authority. If it were the case that they could deal with this subject in a better way, and it was so, surely it was a very dangerous thing to set the precedent which this Bill would set. He had nothing to say against the Plumbers' Company, but nobody could deny that under Clause 9 the Plumbers' Company was really the principal authority under the Bill. It had never been found necessary by other Companies who wanted to take an interest in education to set themselves up as authorities for examination or registration. Surely it would be possible for the Plumbers' Company to show their interest in education, and especially in the education and instruction of plumbers, exactly in the same way as the Clothworkers', Drapers', and other Companies had done.

Mr. LEES KNOWLES: With regard to that, I have an Amendment on the Paper as follows:—

> "Provided that the General Council may, by Order, depute the right of conducting any examination or examinations to such other body or bodies as they may think fit."

Mr. ACLAND said that did not alter Clause 9, which made the Company the examining authority, supervised to a certain extent by an artificial central body. He was not saying a word against the Plumbers' Company, but if they were going to deal, as they would have to do in the future, with the whole question of technical education and registration of particular workmen and particular trades, he really did think that the precedent which this Bill would set would be an extremely unfortunate one. The Secretary to the Local Government Board said that during the time this Bill was before the Grand Committee, no local authority put in any demand on the subject.

Mr. T. W. RUSSELL: I went further than that. I said that during the sitting of the Grand Committee in 1892, 1893, and 1896 no claim was made by any organised body for inclusion in the Bill.

Mr. ACLAND said that in 1892 the local authorities had hardly got to work. They were practically in their infancy.

Mr. T. W. RUSSELL thought the right hon. Gentlemen ought to be reminded that he was one of the promoters of the Bill of 1892.

Mr. ACLAND said he began by saying that the position had been greatly and fundamentally changed. In his opinion the local authorities were really the bodies who ought to be put in charge of this matter. Let them employ the Plumbers' Company if they thought fit, but the question was upon whom was the main responsibility to be thrown when they came to deal with the whole question of the registration of the workmen in various trades. The local authorities both in London and many parts of the country were developing their work in connection with technical instruction, and he thought they ought to hold a position entirely different from that which they held under this Bill. That seemed to him the strongest argument against the Bill. ["Hear, hear!"]

Mr. G. W. WOLFF (Belfast, E.) could not understand why a London Company should be set up to examine and give workmen a certificate which would set them apart from others of their class. If a Government Department was set up for the purpose he could have better understood it; but he thought it was most unjust and unfair that the power of granting certificates should be placed in the hands of a private Company. The Bill seemed to him to be about as defective as any Bill could be. He objected not only to its details but also to the principle that any class of workmen should by examination by a private London Company get a sort of degree, and that those who had not passed that examination should be set down as inferior workmen. ["Hear, hear!"]

Mr. J. WILSON (Lanark, Govan) remarked that, excepting medical men, there was no body of men who could do more for the comfort and health of homes than plumbers. He was afraid that at present there was a great deal of scamped work done by plumbers, and he felt sure that after this Bill was passed every operative plumber would find that it was to his interest to comply with the test imposed and to be registered. The public, he was certain, would thank the House of Commons for passing the Bill. In the North nearly every municipality and local authority approved of this proposed legislation. As the Measure was not compulsory it would not prejudice men who might not wish to be registered.

*MR. JOHN ELLIS (Notts, Rushcliffe) wished to say a few words as Chairman of the Grand Committee to which the Bill had been referred. What the House had heard that day was really a Second Reading Debate. He had noticed in the Committee that both the promoters and opponents of the Measure were without that guidance which a useful Second Reading Debate always afforded. The promoters of the Bill were rather at sea when Amendments were proposed in Committee, and the result was not satisfactory. That afternoon's Debate ought to have taken place before the Bill went before the Grand Committee. ["Hear, hear!"] It would be a serious thing if the House of Commons were to place crude legislation of this kind upon the Statute-book. It could not be disputed that a certain Bill which was rushed through the House last year would cause inconvenience and have consequences which were not foreseen. That case and the present were in many ways parallel. Even if all the Amendments which appeared upon the Paper were inserted in this Measure, he doubted whether it would thereby be made satisfactory. He noticed that the promoters of the Bill themselves had put down a large number of Amendments. Of course, when a Bill came before a Grand Committee it was the duty of the Chairman to keep his mind perfectly free from bias as to the merits of a Bill, and that was always his attitude. But the Bill was now out of Grand Committee; and, therefore, speaking merely as a Member of the House, he felt at liberty to say that in the circumstances, he was inclined to think that the House would be wasting its time by proceeding further with the Measure.

SIR J. BLUNDELL MAPLE (Camberwell, Dulwich) thought the House would do wisely by refusing to pass a Bill of this kind. It partook of the character of grandmotherly legislation, and would interfere with trade. He doubted greatly whether the draftsmen of the Bill knew much about the conditions of the plumbers' trade. The Measure would set a hard precedent in regard to other trades. If plumbers were to be registered why should not bricklayers, carpenters, and all kinds of workmen be treated in the same way? Was it proposed that all working plumbers should obtain certificates? If so, where were they to be examined, who was to pay their railway fares to the examination centres, and who would make good the wages foregone while the examination was proceeding? This Bill reminded him of the Midwives Registration Bill, which it was found very difficult to make workable without interfering with the wants of the community. Of course, everybody was interested in good sanitation, but in order to secure healthy homes it was not necessary to force all plumbers to obtain certificates, for there were architects, surveyors, and foremen to see that the plumber's work was properly executed. Plumbers had made great progress in the direction of efficiency in the last few years; in fact, their work had made more progress than any other kind of work, and therefore this legislation was not called for. He did not, however, object greatly to the discussion of the Bill on that occasion—one of the two Wednesdays which the Government, with a very stingy generosity, had left at the disposal of private Members—because the Debate had prevented a still more objectionable Measure which stood on the Order Paper from being brought on.

MR. J. G. HOLBURN (Lanarkshire, Mid) was surprised at some of the statements which had been made in opposition to the Bill. He supported the Bill on the ground that it was in the public interest, and no one knew better than he did how far the public interest was at the mercy of plumbers. He did not charge them with dishonesty. They did the best they could under existing conditions, but as for inspecting their work, he maintained that the inspection of plumbers' work as a whole was impossible. He agreed with the hon. Member for Battersea that sanitary plumbing had made an enormous advance in the past ten years, and he thought that the chief object of this Bill was to keep the workmen abreast of this advance by means of education. He hoped that the House would allow the Bill to proceed, and that with one or two Amendments it would make a good and workable scheme.

*Sir JOHN LENG (Dundee) referred to the danger attending the general registration of all trades, and remarked that if this tendency of registering all trades to death was carried out to its logical conclusion, they would eventually find themselves taking steps to register rat-catchers and sweeps. It seemed to him, however, that there were exceptions to all rules, and if any trade needed to be registered it was that of plumbing. The work of the plumber was concealed, and bad work was only known by its effects. Disease was spread in our homes and generated in our cities by bad plumbing work; and therefore it was desirable that the education of the plumber should be attended to. This educational movement he believed originated with two most intelligent men, one of whom was Sir Stuart Knill, formerly Lord Mayor of London, and the other was Sir Philip Magnus. The aims and objects of these gentlemen were excellent; but whether the Bill in all its details was the best that could be devised for carrying out those aims he was not prepared to say. With regard, however, to the slight jealousy which seemed to exist as to the competition of the Registered Plumbers' Association or the Plumbers' Company, injuriously affecting our educational institutions, and coming into competition with them, he might state from an experience of some years in connection with the Registered Plumbers' Association in his own constituency, that it had from the beginning worked, and was now working, most harmoniously with their educational institutions, and with the County Council and the City Council. He should hope that if the Bill passed, the spirit which had prevailed between the municipal authorities and the Plumbers' Association in his own constituency would be that which would prevail generally. It seemed to him that having regard to the public health, this trade should, in the first place, have the best possible technical education, and should work along with the existing technical institutes, combining with them some central organisation. Having regard also to the intelligent and patriotic source from which the Bill had emanated, and having confidence in the aims of its promoters, he should be prepared to support it.

Mr. JOHN BRIGG (York, W.R., Keighley) said he had no acquaintance with the proceedings in connection with this Bill which took place in former years, but he called attention to the names of hon. Members on the back of the Bill. He looked in vain for the names of those whom one would expect to find possessing an interest in this industry, and he regretted to see that a number of names which would give such a Bill great weight were conspicuous by their absence. Why should plumbers be specialised in this way? They were not the only persons connected with the hygienic construction of our buildings. Why should similar efforts not be directed to the examination and classification of builders as well as plumbers, and of those engaged in laying drains and tiles in connection with buildings? He had been connected with an institution which had spent £5,000 in relaying drains found to be unsatisfactory. The real cause of the deficiency in the work of plumbers and others engaged in the construction of houses was to a large extent due to the cheap system of contracting, and the cheap materials that were used. It should be remembered also that there was a large number of tramp plumbers employed by cheap contractors, and these men were exceedingly careless in their work. It was to this cause they owed the complaints which were made against particular branches of the building trade. From what he knew of institutes and guilds great credit was due to them for their service, not only to the plumbers, but to other trades. He believed they were able and willing to give instructions not only to the plumber but to the building trades, to enable those engaged in them to do their work efficiently. It was absolutely necessary that before work was covered up it should be inspected to see if it were properly done. The present form of registration was good as far as it went, and he did not think further interference with it was necessary. As one interested in building operations of a varied kind he felt that the registration provided for by the Bill was not one he should feel justified in accepting unless inspection of work before it was covered up was provided for. He should, therefore vote against the Bill.

*Mr. ALEXANDER WYLIE (Dumbartonshire) said that death and disease were caused more often by deficiencies in the plumbing trade than in all the building trades put together; and this was the practical and pressing necessity for immediate legislation. He had listened with interest to the remarks of the hon. Members for Battersea and Belfast as practical men. Their remedy for the bad condition of plumbing seemed to be inspection of finished work. It was not only in construction of houses that defects were found, but in repairs. It would be a good thing if there was a number of certificated plumbers who could be of assistance to sanitary inspectors who were quite unable under present conditions to overtake the inspection of repairs, especially in the dwellings of the poorer classes. Faulty repairs were a source of great danger; a broken soil pipe might cause the death of a family. It had been said that the examination of plumbers should be undertaken by representative educational authorities and the Local Government Board. But neither of these bodies had moved in the matter at all, and immediate legislation was necessary. The Bill was an honest attempt to grapple with the subject, and he believed it would be to a certain extent successful in spite of deficiencies in the Measure. Therefore it would have his cordial support.

Mr. B. PICKARD (York, W. R., Normanton) said that opinion in labour circles in Yorkshire was in favour of the Bill. He had not heard that any Labour Member in the House had received any expression of opinion against the Bill. That was a strong reason why the Labour Members should vote for the Bill. It seemed to be argued that the promoters of the Bill had no right to promote it. If some portion of the United Kingdom had promoted the Bill it would have been all right. But whoever promoted the Bill, if it would tend to the health and happiness of the homes of the people, it deserved the support of every Member of the House. He supported the Bill first of all because of the opposition raised to it, and then because the South-West Riding County Council, of which he was a member, supported the principle of the Bill, though they had a strong desire that certain Amendments should be added. The Bill should not be rejected merely because it was badly drafted and the clauses did not meet the views of every hon. Member. The promoters of the Bill had expressed their willingness to accept any reasonable Amendment which would make the Bill better. He intended to support the Bill.

Mr. GODDARD (Ipswich) in opposing the Bill, said there was a considerable difference of opinion as to its necessity. If the Bill would promote the health of the people there could not be two opinions as to what the House should do with it. But it was an absolute fallacy to suppose that the Bill did anything of the kind. There was no guarantee to householders that in future plumbing work would be done properly. All the Bill did was to provide that certain people should be registered as qualified plumbers, but there was no security that plumbing work should in the future be done only by certificated plumbers. If the Bill provided that no plumbing work should be done except by plumbers who were thoroughly qualified, it would be a different matter. The Bill purported to do something for the public health which in reality it did not do. Members of County Councils were supporting the Bill because they thought it would insist upon work being done in the future in a proper way. But it did not provide for its being done more efficiently than at present. The same men would be employed who it was admitted were now doing the work inefficiently. If the Bill safeguarded the public in regard to this important branch of industry which so seriously affected the health of the people, and especially the health of those who lived in houses put up at the smallest cost, it would be well and good. But let them see that their Bill did so. The men who were most guilty were those who connived at inferior work being done, and who employed the cheapest labour. If a certificated plumber set up in business for himself it was not provided that he should only employ plumbers who were certificated. The Bill purported to do something for the public health of the country, but was a fraud altogether as regarded that, and he should vote against it.

Mr. COURTENAY WARNER (Stafford, Lichfield) admitted that the Bill would not stop bad plumbing, but it would introduce into the plumbing trade a system of registration, which was a step in the direction of securing better plumbing work for the future. The real defects in such work ought to be found out by the architect or surveyor, but they were not. In his own house he had had a soil pipe repaired under an architect's supervision, but finding that a smell still came from it he himself had the pipe taken to pieces and carefully inspected, when he discovered a hole in it he could put his fist through. It might be said that improved plumbing would not prevent such things occurring. It would, however, do something towards raising the standard of plumbers' work and making it all the better. He recognised that there were some flaws in the Bill, but suggested that these might be remedied by Amendments on subsequent stages, whereas the Amendment which had been moved to the Second Reading asked them to reject the Bill altogether. He urged the House to assent to the Second Reading, and to make the Bill a practicable and good Measure by the alterations they could effect on the Report stage.

Mr. THOMAS BAYLEY (Derbyshire, Chesterfield) observed that the principle of the Bill was to give a Government certificate of competency to every person who was a plumber or engaged in the plumbing trade. That was a proper principle, and if the Bill carried it out it would have his hearty support. But it did nothing of the kind, and it absolutely did not carry out a single principle it professed to deal with. He agreed that it was most important they should have competent plumbers, and if certificates were only to be given to efficient workmen it would be another matter. That, however, was not the case, for the Bill said a certificate was to be given to anybody, no matter how incompetent he might be, if he was a plumber or even engaged in plumbing work. The Bill in the shape in which it was presented was involved and complicated, it was an indigestible mass, it did not carry out its own professed objects, and it ought really to be sent back to be reconsidered by the Grand Committee on Trade. If he voted for it at all it would be on the distinct understanding that its many defects were to be hereafter remedied, so that, if possible, it might be converted into a practicable Measure.

Mr. P. A. MUNTZ (Warwickshire, Tamworth) considered the Bill objectionable in its present form. He failed to see why they should register plumbers any more than bricklayers. Plumbers, it was said, must be registered for the benefit of the public health. He ventured to say with some practical knowledge of the subject that bricklayers were quite as important to public health as plumbers. Bricklayers had to lay pipe drains as a continuation of plumbers work, and if they were not efficiently laid gases would spread from the drains into the dwelling, create disease, and destroy public health. It was proposed to give a certificate to all plumbers who had been engaged in the plumbing trade prior to 1892, whether they were efficient or not. To that he strongly objected. That was casting a kind of halo of respectability over all plumbers whether competent or not, while the very fact that they possessed a certificate would induce the public to believe they were properly skilled workmen. That was altogether an unfair position in which to place men who might not be qualified, and if the Bill was to be passed it was quite clear that there should be some guarantee that the men who were certificated were thoroughly competent workmen.

Sir WALTER FOSTER (Derby, Ilkeston) observed that the Bill had been before the House for some years, and he was sorry that during that period it had not developed into a better Bill than it was at the present time. Still, it had the germs of good in it, and he should be sorry to see any Amendment carried which would postpone its consideration. The argument that plumbers should not be registered because bricklayers were not had neither justice nor logic in it, and if adopted would put an end to registration in any trade whatever. He wanted to begin with the registration of those trades on the efficiency of whose work the health of the people depended. Plumbers were more intimately connected with health than any other trade. If bricklayers desired registration they could have it, and if in the meantime the registration of plumbers would have the effect of saving a few lives annually in this country they should endeavour to secure its adoption. ["Hear, hear!"] It was objected that the Bill proposed to register persons who had been practising as plumbers since 1892. Anybody who had studied the history of registration would find that was the course which had always been followed; and they were bound to recognise the members of the trade or profession it was proposed to register who were practising at the time a Bill such as this passed. ["Hear, hear!"] But afterwards they would only put people on the register who had passed an examination which he hoped would go up step by step until it became more perfect, and until they had in this country a body of registered plumbers who knew their business properly, who had learnt the amount of science necessary for effective sanitary plumbing, and whose knowledge would prove invaluable in protecting public health. The object of the Bill was a good one. It sought to introduce into a very important trade the system of selection by which competent persons would do the work, and on that account he thought it ought, at all events, to receive the sanction of the House as regarded the present stage. ["Hear, hear!"] The Bill was not a perfect one, and was open to amendment in many ways; but believing that if it were passed it could be made a Measure that would be of benefit to the country he should vote against the Amendment, being convinced that in so voting he should be voting in favour of a step in advance in sanitary legislation.

Question put, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

The House divided:—Ayes, 200; Noes, 77.—(Division List, No. 259.)

Main Question put, and agreed to.

Bill considered.

Clause 2,—

COMMENCEMENT OF ACT.

This Act shall commence and take effect from the *first day of January, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight,* hereinafter referred to as the commencement of this Act.

Mr. LEES KNOWLES moved, after the word "shall," to insert the words "save where the context otherwise requires."

Amendment agreed to.

*Sir CHARLES DILKE (Gloucester, Forest of Dean) moved to leave out the words "*the first day of January, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight,*" and to insert—

"such date after the first day of August, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight as the Local Government Board may fix by order published in the *London Gazette.*"

If there was any real intention of passing the Bill in the present Session it would have to be very much simpler and would have to be virtually framed by the Local Government Board. If this Amendment were carried, he should be prepared to move to leave out the greater portion of Clauses 3 and 4 and the schedules, and to propose that the rules for the election of the governing body should be left entirely to the Local Government Board.

Mr. BURNS hoped the Amendment would be accepted. Unless the rules were framed by some such body as the Local Government Board he predicted that many of the authorities who had petitioned for the Bill and some of the educational institutions that were not opposed to it, would abandon the Bill or ask to have it repealed in consequence of the complexity of its machinery.

Mr. T. W. RUSSELL said he must decline to accept the Amendment of the right hon. Gentleman. He did not believe that the arrangements for the establishment of the general council were unworkable, but at all events, the Local Government Board could not take the responsibility of devising the perfectly new machinery which was proposed.

Mr. WARNER said it was not a question of the Local Government Board nominating the members of this council, but simply of their drawing up rules for their election. It was practically the only chance that the Bill would have of passing for the Local Government Board to draw up a scheme. If the Amendment were carried, he pointed out that the rules would be subject to the approval of the House, because they would be laid upon the Table of the House.

Mr. W. E. M. TOMLINSON (Preston) said he was not at all satisfied that the Bill as it stood would work satisfactorily. ["Hear, hear!"] He believed it might be improved in Committee, or perhaps a better Bill might be produced next Session. He did not think he could support the Amendment of the right hon. Gentleman.

Mr. LEES KNOWLES hoped the right hon. Gentleman would not press his Amendment. He did not know exactly what the object of the Amendment was.

Sir C. DILKE said its object was simply to give more time for the Local Government Board to prepare schemes.

Mr. LEES KNOWLES pointed out that the Local Government Board had declined to accept the responsibility. The Local Government Board would have an interest in watching the working of the machinery.

Question put, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill." The House divided:—Ayes, 176; Noes, 97.—(Division List, No. 260.)

*Mr. HENRY KIMBER (Wandsworth) moved to omit from Sub-section (1) the words "Education and." He said that the Bill was in no sense an Education

Bill, but was limited to registration. It included examination, but only as a step to the act of registration.

Mr. HOBHOUSE supported the Amendment. He said the proposed council would be a body entirely unsuitable for the supervision of the education of plumbers. For the whole of England and Wales (exclusive of London, in regard to which a more reasonable proposal was made) two-thirds of the General Council of 24 members were to be connected with the plumbing trade; and the remaining eight were to be members of the council of a borough, or other urban or rural district, or medical officers of health, or inspectors or nuisances, who were to be elected of large constituencies consisting of persons carrying on any trade employing plumbers, operative plumbers, and the members of the borough, urban, and rural councils. Could any body so elected be regarded as a proper educational authority? The largest proportion of this enormous electorate would be connected with the plumbing industry; and the result would undoubtedly be that the council would consist almost entirely of persons belonging to that industry. Such a body might be a very suitable one for registration; but it could not be said to be a suitable body to regulate without any control from a central authority the education and examination of plumbers. It was true that 20 additional members were to be elected by the General Council from the nominees of a long list of sanitary institutes, technical colleges, and plumbers' associations; but this addition could not be said to render the General Council a fit body to exercise control over education. The General Council would be free to choose all the 20 additional members from the nominees of the plumbers' associations, neglecting altogether the representatives of those local authorities which were doing so much for the technical instruction of plumbers at the present time. The Council as proposed to be constituted might be a good body for registration purposes, but it could not be a proper educational body.

Mr. LEES KNOWLES thought it mattered very little what name was given to the Council. But certain educational powers were to be given to the Council, and he hoped, therefore, that the Amendment would not be pressed.

Mr. BURNS hoped that the Amendment would be accepted. The County Councils had done a great deal in the last few years for the technical education of plumbers, among other craftsmen, and those efforts ought to be recognised. It would be a pity to compel those authorities to spend in other ways the money they now spent on the technical education of plumbers; but that would happen if this proposed Council set up an educational centre of its own. There were now 30 classes for plumbers carried on in different London Polytechnics, and it would be a pity to take away all the apprentices now attending those classes. A common centre would break up that healthy spirit of local effort and responsibility.

Sir WALTER FOSTER said that the words "Education and registration" were used according to the ordinary custom of bodies concerned with registration. The proposed Council would not attempt to become a teaching body itself; but would simply supervise the education of the students by other bodies and maintain its standard. In all registration of this kind, it was most essential that the body regulated should be largely represented on the central Council, and, therefore he saw no objection to the constitution of the Council.

Mr. T. W. RUSSELL said that all registration must be founded on education. The Council would have to direct the course of study of the students for instance; and therefore he hoped the Amendment would not be accepted.

Question put, "That the words 'Education and,' stand part of the Bill."

The House divided:—Ayes, 153; Noes, 123.—(Division List, No. 261.)

And, it being after Half-past Five of the Clock, further proceeding on consideration, as amended, stood adjourned.

Bill, as amended, to be further considered upon Wednesday next.

FACTORY ACTS (FISHING TRADE) BILL.

Committee deferred till Wednesday next.

SERVICE FRANCHISE BILL.

Committee deferred till Wednesday next.

TEIND COURT (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Order for Second Reading read, and discharged; Bill withdrawn.

PENSIONS (OLD AGE) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Wednesday next.

REGISTRATION OF PARLIAMENTARY VOTERS BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Wednesday next.

CEMETERIES RATING BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Wednesday 14th July.

POLICE PENSIONS AND SERVICE BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Monday next.

POLICE APPOINTMENT AND PROMOTION BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Monday next.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (1894) AMENDMENT (No. 2) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Wednesday next.

DISTRICT COUNCILS (WATER SUPPLY FACILITIES) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Wednesday next.

SUPPLY.

Committee deferred till Friday.

WAYS AND MEANS.

Committee deferred till Friday.

POLICE (PROPERTY) BILL.

As amended, considered; to be read the Third time To-morrow.

LAND TRANSFER BILL [H.L.].

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

BICYCLES (IRELAND) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

BURIAL GROUNDS LOANS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Adjourned Debate on Second Reading [11th May] further adjourned till To-morrow.

STIPENDIARY MAGISTRATES' JURISDICTION (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

POOR LAW BILL.

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

DANGEROUS PERFORMANCES BILL.

Committee deferred till To-morrow.

SCHOOL BOARDS' EXPENSES BILL.

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

PUBLIC HEALTH (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Consideration, as amended (by the Standing Committee), deferred till To-morrow.

WORKMEN (COMPENSATION FOR ACCIDENTS) BILL.

Consideration, as amended, deferred till Monday next.

EDUCATIONAL ENDOWMENTS (IRELAND) ACT (1885) AMENDMENT BILL.

Committee deferred till To-morrow.

ARCHDEACONRY OF LONDON (ADDITIONAL ENDOWMENTS) BILL.

Considered in Committee.

Clause 1,—Committee report Progress; to sit again upon Monday next.

STEAM ENGINES AND BOILERS (PERSONS IN CHARGE) BILL.

Adjourned Debate on Motion for Committal to Standing Committee on Trade, Etc. [17th February], further adjourned till Monday next.

COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEAL BILL.

Adjourned Debate on Motion for Committal to Select Committee [24th March] further adjourned till Wednesday next.

RAILWAY RETURN TICKETS BILL.

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

PARISH REGISTERS BILL.

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (CONTINUATION SCHOOLS) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Monday next.

TRAWLERS' LICENSING BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Wednesday, 21st July.

LIQUOR TRAFFIC LOCAL VETO (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Wednesday, 21st July.

RIVERS POLLUTION PREVENTION BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Wednesday, 14th July.

YORKSHIRE CORONERS BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Monday next.

PARISH COUNCILS (SCOTLAND) (CASUAL VACANCIES) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Monday next.

ACCESS TO MOUNTAINS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Wednesday, 21st July.

TENANT RIGHT IN TOWNS (IRELAND) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

MUNICIPAL FRANCHISE (IRELAND) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

POOR LAW FRANCHISE (IRELAND) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

TROUT FISHING CLOSE TIME (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Tuesday, 20th July.

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Tuesday next.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (COUNTY COUNCIL CLERKS) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Tuesday next.

PRISONERS' PERSONAL CORRECTION PROHIBITION BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Thursday, 8th July.

WORKING MEN'S DWELLINGS BILL [H.L.].

Second Reading deferred till Monday next.

COLONIAL SOLICITORS BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Tuesday next.

GROUND GAME ACT (EXTENSION TO COPYHOLDERS) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Tuesday next.

EVICTED TENANTS (IRELAND) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

LICENSING (SCOTLAND) ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD (IRELAND) (COMPULSORY PURCHASE POWERS) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION BILL [H.L.].

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

LICENSING EXEMPTION (HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

COUNTY COUNCIL (ADVANCES) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ACT (1880) AMENDMENT (No. 2) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Tuesday next.

REGISTRATION OF FIRMS BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Monday next.

PARLIAMENTARY VOTERS (IRELAND) REGISTRATION BILL.

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

JURORS' EXPENSES BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Friday.

UNLAWFUL POSSESSION BILL.

Adjourned Debate on Second Reading [29th January] further adjourned till Wednesday next.

CROFTERS' HOLDINGS (SCOTLAND) ACT (1886) AMENDMENT BILL.

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

SCHOOL BOARD ELECTORATE (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

House Adjourned at Ten Minutes before Six o'Clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Thursday, 1st July 1897.

PRIVATE BUSINESS.

BELFAST WATER BILL.

On the Motion for the Second Reading of this Bill,

MR. JOHN DILLON (Mayo, E.) said that the position of Belfast in regard to its water supply was peculiar, as the supply was under the control, not of the Corporation, but of a special Board of Commissioners. A large number of applications had been made to Parliament during the last 20 years by the Board for authority to increase their borrowing powers, and the present Measure had a similar object in view. The point to which he desired specially to draw attention was this: As would be in the recollection of the House, the district governed by the Corporation of Belfast had been recently extended, and had been divided into 15 wards, which was the result of a compromise between the Catholics, the Protestants, and other religious denominations of Belfast. The result of the compromise was to give the Catholics, who had never previously been represented on the Municipal Council, such a representation as would ensure their voice being heard, although he would not say that they received a fair share of the representation. The present Bill contained clauses which were drafted in view of the alteration of the wards of Belfast, and Clause 15 provided that there should only be one representative from each of the 15 wards on the Water Board. It would be remembered that after the discussion that took place on the Municipal Bill, two of the wards were so limited as to give them practically to the Catholics, which would give the Catholics six members on the Municipal Council, namely, three for each ward. But under the provisions of the present Bill the Catholics would only obtain two members on the Water Board, namely, one for each of the two wards appropriated to them, and consequently a large section of the Nationalists of Belfast thought that they would not be in as good a position on the Water Board as they were in regard to the Municipal Council. Unless some satisfactory settlement could be arrived at upon this point, he should be compelled to move an Instruction to the Committee as to altering the number of the Commissioners. He could see no ground on which the Water Board could object to an increase of the numbers, especially now that the district itself had been largely extended. He should suggest, in order to meet the point raised, that the numbers of the Water Commissioners should be increased from 15 to 30 or 45, so as to give the Catholics a representation of from four to six on the Board. Furthermore, he thought that it would be an improvement to incorporate the provisions in Clause 68 of the Municipal Act, which provided for the retirement of the Commissioners. By that clause it was provided that all the Commissioners should retire once in three years, but he should suggest that only one-third should retire every year. He should not attempt to oppose the Second Reading of the Bill, but he should like to know what were the views of those in charge of the Bill, because if they could not arrive at some satisfactory agreement upon the point, he should be compelled to move the Instruction which he had indicated.

Bill read a Second time, and committed.

QUESTIONS.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (SCOTLAND).

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate if he can explain the delay in printing the Minute of the Scotch Education Department of 10th June; and if he can promise that no action will be taken thereunder until the House has had an opportunity of discussing its provisions?

*THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire): The Minute was printed at the earliest possible date as a Parliamentary Paper and has now been circulated. In reply to the second part of the Question, it will not be possible to delay action after the Minute has lain on the Table for one month.

CLONES POST OFFICE.

MR. D. MACALEESE (Monaghan, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, have complaints reached him regarding the insufficient accommodation afforded to merchants and the general public at the Clones Post Office; and whether, seeing that repeated representations have been made, without effect, to the Clones Postmaster by the Department in regard to this matter, the Postmaster General will take into his own hands the providing of premises for a post office in the town of Clones?

THE SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. R. W. HANBURY Preston): The need for a better Post Office at Clones is admitted, and for some time past the Postmaster has been making inquiries, by advertisements and otherwise, for other premises, but hitherto without success. A new proposal, however, is now under examination, but if that prove to be unsatisfactory, it will probably be necessary to consider the question of taking steps to provide a Crown Office.

PAUPER PATIENTS (COUNTY ASYLUMS).

MR. J. CALDWELL (Lanark, Mid): On behalf of the hon. Member for Ross and Cromarty (Mr. J. G. WEIR), I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether it is the practice within the Metropolitan area to classify as paupers patients who are under treatment in County Asylums, notwithstanding the fact that the cost of maintenance is provided by the relatives or friends of the patients; and, if so, whether it is proposed to take any steps to amend the present system of classification?

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY, Lancashire, Blackpool): I am informed that all patients in County Asylums are classed as paupers whose maintenance is paid for by the Guardians, although it may be that in some cases the Guardians are partially recouped by sums received from relatives. I have no information which would lead me to think that a grievance exists, but I will make further inquiry.

BRENNAN TORPEDO.

MR. CALDWELL: On behalf of the hon. Member for Ross and Cromarty, I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War if he will state on what date the Government first engaged in the Brennan torpedo manufacture, the total sum expended to date (including any royalty paid to the inventor), whether any torpedoes have been produced, and, if so, how many?

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE WAR OFFICE (Mr. POWELL-WILLIAMS, Birmingham, S.): The manufacture of Brennan torpedoes commenced in 1887. The total expenditure on them to the 31st March last was £265,320. An amply supply of torpedoes for all approved stations and for a reserve has been completed. I cannot be more specific.

PARISH COUNCILS (SCOTLAND).

MR. CALDWELL: On behalf of the hon. Member for Ross and Cromarty, I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, if he will state on what day he intends to introduce the promised Bill which will place parish councils in Scotland on the same footing as similar councils in England in regard to telegraph extension and money order office guarantees?

MR. HANBURY: This Bill will deal with other subjects besides those mentioned in the Question, but I hope to introduce it at any rate next week.

MACHINE GUNS.

MR. CALDWELL: On behalf of the hon. Member for Ross and Cromarty, I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether the Government is still paying royalty on machine guns; and if so, will he state how much is paid on each of the respective guns, and when the royalties will cease?

MR. POWELL-WILLIAMS: Royalties are still being paid on the Maxim rifle-calibre machine gun, and they will continue to be paid until the patent expires in 1900. The royalty on each of the first 200 guns ordered in any financial year is £40, above that number £25. The main patent expires in 1900, but there are patents for improvements not expiring until 1901 and 1904, the royalties payable under which will have to be considered when the main patent has expired.

SCIENCE AND ART SCHOOL, NANTWICH.

MR. H. T. TOLLEMACHE (Cheshire, Eddisbury): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury (1) if it is the case that a building grant to the proposed School of Science and Art at Nantwich has been refused by the Lords of the Treasury on the ground that they cannot make an exception to the rule; and (2) if he will state what is the rule to which reference is made, as it does not appear in the new Science and Art Directory containing the Report of the Committee appointed to revise the grants made by that Department?

MR. HANBURY: The answer to the first paragraph is, Yes. The new rule, laid down last February, is that no new applications for building grants to schools of science or art will be entertained. These grants are now an anachronism. They date from days when little or no assistance was given to higher education in other ways, and when similar grants were given to elementary schools. The latter grants have long been discontinued in this country, and the localities now have large sums at their disposal for technical education. The new Science and Art Directory has not yet been issued. The hon. Member has no doubt been misled by the fact that the Report of the recent Departmental Committee on the Distribution of Science and Art Grants contains a proposed revise of the old directory, but this is neither authoritative nor final. The new directory will contain no provision for building grants.

STREET DISTURBANCE, DUBLIN.

MR. JAMES DALY (Monaghan, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland (1) whether he is aware that last week, before Mr. Byrne, magistrate, Dublin, a student named Robert Davis, and a labourer named William Greville, were charged by the police with fighting in the streets of Dublin; (2) whether he can say why the student was acquitted and the labourer sent to gaol for a month; and (3) whether he will get the case of Greville reconsidered with a view to his release?

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): The facts are as stated in the first paragraph. Greville made no defence and was fined in a sum of 40s. or, in default of payment, to be imprisoned for one month. The student was acquitted on the ground that he had acted in self-defence. Any memorial that may be received from Greville praying for a mitigation of his sentence will be considered by the Lords Justices in the usual way.

OUTRAGES AT POONA.

MR. J. HEATH (Staffordshire, N.W.): On behalf of the hon. Member for East Hull (Mr. J. T. FIRBANK), I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether, in consequence of the murderous outrage at Poona made on Mr. Rand and Lieutenant Ayerst, the Indian Government will consider the desirability of adopting effectual means to prevent the inculcation of sedition through the Press?

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.) said that before that Question was answered he wished to direct attention to its wording. In the first place the Question assumed as a matter of fact that sedition had been inculcated through the Indian native Press. That was an argumentative and hypothetical expression, and there was not a particle of evidence offered to support the statement. Moreover, sedition was a matter of opinion. [*Laughter.*] He was perfectly serious in making that observation. The question of sedition could only be determined as an issue of fact, which when answered became an issue of law. What was or what was not sedition could never be discovered until the matter was subjected to some judicial investigation. He therefore objected to the Question, as it appeared upon the Paper, being put to a Minister. It was a most vicious

Question in a Parliamentary sense, reflecting upon a whole class of the Press, that had ever been presented to the House of Commons.

*MR. SPEAKER: The statement as to there having been a murderous outrage at Poona is a statement of fact which, if I recollect aright, has already been quoted in this House by a Minister of the Crown. As regards the latter part of the Question, I see nothing irregular in it. ["Hear, hear!"]

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Lord GEORGE HAMILTON, Middlesex, Ealing): The police are now inquiring into the causes and circumstances of the outrage which has been recently committed at Poona. But the habitual dissemination of false intelligence and of appeals to religious animosities by a portion of the vernacular Press is a matter which has for some years past received the careful attention of the Indian Government; and if the result of the present inquiry be to show that this outrage was prompted by articles of this character, the question of taking measures to prevent the encouragement of crime through the Press will undoubtedly be taken into consideration. ["Hear, hear!"]

MR. MACNEILL: Would the inquiry be public?

LORD GEORGE HAMILTON: If the hon. Gentleman thinks that a public inquiry into a murder conspiracy of this kind would facilitate the ends of justice he stands alone in that opinion. ["Hear, hear."]

MR. MICHAEL DAVITT (Mayo, S.): That is a speech.

MR. MACNEILL: I am quite content to stand alone.

SIR W. WEDDERBURN (Banffshire): Is it not the case that under the penal code stringent punishment is provided for these incitements to crime?

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! That is really arguing the question. The noble Lord has simply stated that there will be an inquiry into the matter, and that does not justify the hon. Member in arguing the question that there are other means which would make it unnecessary to hold such an inquiry.

Mr. Swift MacNeill.

SIR W. WEDDERBURN: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he has received copies of a joint Hindu and Mahomedan memorial, dated 10th May 1897, regarding the Poona plague administration, addressed to the Governor of Bombay by upwards of 2,000 leading citizens of Poona and presented on their behalf by the principal Mahomedan and Hindu associations of the Deccan, giving specific instances of oppression and insult inflicted upon their families and religion, and declaring that a reign of terror had existed for the past eight weeks; whether he will state what reply was given to the petition, and what inquiry was made to test the truth of these allegations; and, whether he will lay a copy of the petition and of the reply upon the Table of the House?

LORD GEORGE HAMILTON: I had not seen a copy of the memorial to which the hon. Member refers until I received one to-day from him. The measures taken at Poona to prevent the spread of the plague, which have been attended by a very remarkable amount of success, the deaths from plague having fallen from 177 per week to 7 per week within the last two months, have been made the subject of much misrepresentation and exaggeration in a portion of the vernacular Press. At present I can express no opinion as to the contents of the memorial, nor have I seen a copy of the Governor of Bombay's reply; but I am confident that he has been and is most careful to confine the action of the authorities to what is absolutely necessary for checking the plague, and to show all possible consideration to the religious opinions and customs of the inhabitants. I can say nothing with regard to laying papers on the Table until I receive an official report on the subject from India.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS (Denbighshire, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India, whether his attention has been drawn to the bitter complaints which have appeared in the vernacular newspapers of Poona and the Deccan, generally with regard to the methods pursued by the authorities in dealing with the plague; whether he is aware that no such complaints have been made with respect to the administration in Bombay, and if it be the case that the work of dealing with the plague at Bombay has been surrounded with more difficulty than at Poona; whether he is able to lay Papers upon the Table of the House with regard to the serious outrages which have been reported from Poona; and, whether he will order that a public and impartial inquiry shall be held to investigate the administration with regard to the plague at Poona?

LORD GEORGE HAMILTON: I am aware that, although the measures for checking the spread of the plague have been conducted on the same system at Poona and at Bombay, the unfavourable comments of the vernacular Press have been mainly confined to the newspapers of Poona and the Deccan. In view of the tone which had been previously adopted by those newspapers, this contrast does not afford matter for surprise. The recent outrages are now being inquired into by the police, and any publication of papers might tend to defeat the ends of justice. I have no reason to think, as at present advised, that any inquiry into the administration of Poona during the plague is necessary or desirable.

ILLEGAL TRAWLING.

MR. CALDWELL: On behalf of the hon. Member for Ross and Cromarty, I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty, whether, in view of the fact that the *Daisy*, with a complement of seven, and the *Beatrice* with a complement of five, both engaged in the duty of protecting the interests of the line fishermen against illegal trawling, are, by reason of their being sailing vessels, quite useless to watch and overtake fast and powerful steam trawlers, will the Government arrange for steam cruisers to be substituted; and if not, will he state what steps Her Majesty's Government propose to take for the better protection of those parts of the coast where the sailing vessels *Daisy* and *Beatrice* are now employed?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. GOSCHEN, St. George's, Hanover Square): The *Daisy* is constantly employed under the Fishery Board for Scotland entirely in the inshore waters of the Firth of Clyde and Loch Fyne districts. The gunboat *Starling* is stationed in the Clyde district and is very frequently employed on Fishery duties. The *Beatrice* is only occasionally employed on Fishery duties. There are two fast torpedo gunboats and a steam cruiser already frequently employed in the districts to which the *Beatrice* belongs.

POSTAL FACILITIES, LEWIS.

MR. CALDWELL: On behalf of the hon. Member for Ross and Cromarty, I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he is aware that, although the population of the Island of Lewis is nearly 30,000, there are only six money order offices in the island and only ten other offices at which postal orders can be purchased; and, in view of the difficulty which the people experience in remitting money in payment of their rates and for other purposes, will he arrange for more money order offices and for additional offices where postal orders may be purchased?

MR. HANBURY: The Postmaster General regrets to find, from the returns taken at those post offices in the Island of Lewis which are not now money order offices, that he would not be justified in opening any of them for money order business except under guarantee. Inquiry shall be made, however, whether the sale of postal orders can be extended to some of the offices where they cannot now be purchased.

VENTILATION (METROPOLITAN RAILWAYS).

MR. CALDWELL: On behalf of the hon. Member for Ross and Cromarty, I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if he can state when the Report of the Committee on the ventilation of the tunnels of the Metropolitan and Metropolitan District Railways will be laid upon the Table of the House?

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. C. T. RITCHIE, Croydon): The Committee hope to conclude the taking of evidence next Tuesday, 6th July, when they will consider their Report. They have arranged to visit the Severn Tunnel to inspect the ventilating arrangements on July 12th, and the Report will be made as soon as possible after that date.

QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE.

MR. T. R. BUCHANAN (Aberdeenshire, E.): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate why the Provosts of all Burghs in Scotland were not invited to the Presentation of the Municipal Address to the Queen on 23rd June; and, in view of the dissatisfaction caused by these omissions, will the Government secure that the Jubilee medals to be issued to Mayors and Provosts shall be sent to all Provosts in Scotland without distinction?

*THE LORD ADVOCATE: In considering who should be invited to the Municipal Presentation to Her Majesty on June 23rd, the precedents of 1872 and 1887 were followed, with this addition, that the Provosts of the Police Burghs having a population of 5,000 and upwards were included in the invitation. The second part of the hon. Member's Question deals with a matter which does not come within the discretion of the Government.

MR. T. B. BOLITHO (Cornwall, St. Ives): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board, whether Jubilee medals will be distributed to the chairmen of urban district councils, having regard to the fact that such chairmen often preside over much larger interests than do many of the mayors on whom the medals will be conferred?

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. HENRY CHAPLIN, Lincolnshire, Sleaford): I am sorry that I am quite unable to reply to the Question of the hon. Member, which appeared on the Paper this morning. I have nothing to do with the Jubilee arrangements, and have no information upon the point in question.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he is aware that, on Wednesday 30th June, the officials at post offices in London declined to forward telegrams to ships in the Fleet at Spithead, unless upon payment of the sum of 25s.; whether he will state what are the arrangements of the Post Office for the dispatch of telegrams by boats to ships, and whether these arrangements are permanent or whether they are subject to any increase of charge on special occasions that the boatmen may choose to impose; and whether the regulations as to boat hire will be re-considered, with a view to securing the public against arbitrary and exorbitant overcharges?

MR. HANBURY: The Postmaster General is not aware that the officials declined to forward telegrams to ships in the Fleet at Spithead unless upon a payment of 25s. Telegrams for the Fleet were delivered without charge three times a day by means of torpedo boats, and the post offices in London and elsewhere were duly made acquainted with this arrangement. It was only when the sender required his telegrams to be specially delivered that he was asked for a deposit of 25s. Every endeavour was to be made at Portsmouth to deliver such telegrams as cheaply as possible, and any unexpected balance was to be returned to the sender. The arrangements at ordinary times are to pay a uniform charge of moderate amount which is duly notified to all post offices; but on such an occasion as the review of the Fleet, the demand for boats is so great that it is impossible to procure the delivery of telegrams for the usual charge, and the Postmaster General fears it will not be possible for him to provide by regulations against the imposition of a higher charge when the demand is so much in excess of the supply.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that Members of this House who handed in telegrams for the Fleet were not informed of the arrangement, but the 25s. was demanded of them absolutely without condition?

MR. HANBURY: All I can say is that the information ought to have been given to everybody.

SIR CAMERON GULL (Devon, Barnstaple): I beg to ask the Civil Lord of the Admiralty whether he can now state the total number of persons who were on board the *Campania* at the Naval Review?

THE CIVIL LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.): In consequence of the questions addressed to me on Tuesday, I caused the following telegram to be sent to the Admiralty Transport officer, who was on board the *Campania*:—

"Question in Parliament this afternoon states 1,800 persons were on board *Campania* at Naval Review. Admiralty limited number of guests to 1,600, and company were informed only holders of Admiralty tickets should be allowed on board. Can you explain the discrepancy?"

I have received the following reply:—

"In reply to telegram Cunard Company say there were no more than 1,600 persons on board *Campania*, and these were all holders of Admiralty tickets except 30, including members of Press and directors who were associated with the company."

PRISON SYSTEM (SCOTLAND).

MR. THOMAS HEDDERWICK (Wick Burghs): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether the Government will grant a Parliamentary Inquiry into the Prison System of Scotland, similar to the Parliamentary Inquiry into the Prison System of England in 1894?

***THE LORD ADVOCATE**: After consultation with Secretary for Scotland, I do not find that the facts in our knowledge are such as to justify the Inquiry asked for. If the hon. Member is prepared to bring forward specific charges against the Prison Administration in Scotland, the Secretary for Scotland will give them careful consideration, and along with them the question of the expediency of an Inquiry.

CUSTOMS BOATMEN.

MR. H. C. F. LUTTRELL (Devon, Tavistock): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether the uniform of the boatmen of Customs is supposed to be issued on 1st May; and, if so, why the contractor has in some cases not supplied this uniform until two or three months after this date; and, whether he will take steps to enforce the punctual fulfilment of the contract in the future?

MR. HANBURY: The annual issue of the uniform of the Boatmen of Customs should take place on the 1st of May. The clothing for the present year has in many cases not been yet received from the Contractors, who, in reply to communications as to the non-delivery, have stated that all the uniform is under inspection at the Army Clothing Department, and they have alleged that the delay has been occasioned to a great extent by the abnormal pressure in consequence of the requirements for Her Majesty's Jubilee. The Board of Customs have already taken steps with a view of enforcing the punctual supply of the clothing in future, and are making further inquiry as to the cause of delay. The contract is for three years, expiring next December, and in 1895 the Board levied a fine of £58 14s. 2d. upon the Contractors in consequence of their failure to deliver certain clothing until two or three months after the time prescribed in one of the Articles of their Agreement.

DESTRUCTION OF CROPS (ESSEX).

MR. J. ROUND (Essex, Harwich): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture if he is making any inquiry into the disastrous effects of the recent severe hailstorm in the county of Essex; and, if he sent down a Government inspector to report upon damage sustained by agriculturists?

***THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE** (Mr. WALTER LONG, Liverpool, West Derby): Yes, Sir. I have instructed an inspector to at once visit the district affected by the disastrous storm of last Thursday, and to make a report to me as to the character and extent of the damage done. But I may say that from what I myself saw in the course of a tour of inspection which I thought it my duty to make yesterday there can be no doubt as to the grievous nature of the calamity which has befallen agriculturists in the parts of the County visited by the storm, which was of a most exceptional character, and it is clear that much distress and loss of employment will arise which will urgently call for relief.

MR. D. CRILLY (Mayo, N.): May I ask the right hon. Gentleman will he take into consideration, in conjunction with the Chief Secretary for Ireland, when he is extending relief to Essex, the advisability of extending relief to the starving people of Belmullet?

[No answer was given.]

LABOURERS' COTTAGES (IRELAND).

CAPTAIN DONELAN (Cork, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will take any steps to give effect to the strong opinion expressed by Irish representatives in favour of the application of a portion of the Exchequer grant in aid of the erection of labourers' cottages in

Ireland to the relief of the unions in which cottages were erected prior to 1891?

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: This matter was fully discussed in Committee of Supply on the 21st May, and I am afraid I have nothing to add to the statement made by me on that occasion.

Mr. JOHN DILLON (Mayo, E.): May I ask, is it in the discretion of the Lord Lieutenant to distribute the money as he thinks fit?

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: No, it must be done in accordance with the Act of Parliament.

Captain DONELAN: Is it not a fact that every Irish representative who took part in the discussion of this question on the Local Government Board vote, strongly urged that the application of the grant should be made retrospective?

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: I have already fully explained that if a change were made it would have to be made by legislation. The whole subject was fully considered last year, and the conclusion arrived at was a deliberate one, and I am unable to alter it.

TREASON-FELONY PRISONERS.

Mr. MICHAEL DAVITT: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he has received an appeal signed by, among others, Mr. Joseph Cowen, the Mayor and Sheriff of Newcastle-on-Tyne, over 30 Justices of the Peace, and over 40 Town Councillors of the Tyneside district, asking for the release of the few remaining Irish prisoners now in prison under the Treason-felony or Explosives Acts; and whether he can see his way to lay this petition upon the Table of the House?

Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY: I have received a printed copy of this memorial, which shows that it is signed as suggested in the Question. It is, however, quite contrary to practice to lay petitions to the Crown upon the Table of the House, and I do not propose to depart from the usual practice in the present instance.

Mr. W. ALLAN (Gateshead): May I ask the right hon. Gentleman whether he cannot see his way to accede to the prayer of so influential a petition? ["Hear, hear!" *and Irish cheers.*]

Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY: That is rather a different question. I have not yet received the original. I can only say that when I do, it shall be duly considered, and every weight given to the importance of it. At present I am not in a position to add anything to the statement I have already made to the House.

LOCAL TAXATION ACCOUNT.

Sir HENRY FOWLER (Wolverhampton, E.): I beg to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he will, in the weekly statements of the public income and expenditure, include in the income the gross receipts from the Customs, Excise, and Death Duties, and show in the expenditure the amounts paid to the Local Taxation Account?

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER (Sir Michael Hicks Beach, Bristol, W.): The right hon. Gentleman is, of course, aware that the information he desires is given in the quarterly accounts, and also in the Budget statement. I doubt whether it would be advisable to give it in the weekly statements, which would then no longer be an Exchequer account, and would, owing to the manner in which the amounts are paid to the local taxation account, be somewhat misleading. But I will consider the matter and communicate with him upon it.

MERSEY DOCKS BILL.

Mr. DALY: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture if he can say what course he intends to take with regard to the Third Reading of the Mersey Docks Bill on 5th July; and whether he is aware that this Bill, if passed into law, would be very injurious to the cattle trade of Ireland?

*Mr. LONG: Since the reply given by my right hon. Friend the Chief Secretary for Ireland to the similar Question addressed to him on May 27 last, further representations have reached us with regard to the Bill to which the hon. Member refers, and the conclusion at which we have arrived is that it would involve serious risk of the dislocation of the very important trade in cattle now carried on between Ireland and the port of Liverpool. This being the case, we do not propose to support its Third Reading.

CRETE.

MR. HEDDERWICK: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what stage the negotiations of the Great Powers to secure the autonomy of Crete have reached?

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Mr. G. CURZON, Lancashire, Southport): The measures for carrying into effect the autonomy which has been promised to Crete are still under discussion between the Great Powers; and considerable progress has been made towards an agreement. While the negotiations are still continuing, it would not be of advantage to make any further statement.

FAMINE IN INDIA.

SIR WILLIAM WEDDERBURN: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether his attention has been drawn to a statement in *The Pioneer* of 14th March last, that the Government of India has issued a Circular to the officers whose duty it is to report the deaths from famine, directing them not to report any deaths as due to starvation except in cases where it could be clearly established that the victims had no food for several days; and whether any means have been taken to prevent the trustworthiness of the record of famine mortality being vitiated by this Order?

LORD GEORGE HAMILTON: I am aware of the statements in a letter published in *The Pioneer* to which the hon. Member refers. I have seen no circular of the Government of India which would justify them, but I know that that Government have had reason to believe that deaths are frequently reported as due to starvation when they are really due to other causes, and that they have issued orders to prevent the famine statistics from being vitiated by inaccuracies of this kind.

CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY EDUCATION (IRELAND).

MR. DILLON: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury (1) whether his attention has been directed to the pronouncement of the Archbishops and Bishops on the subject of Catholic University education in Ireland; and (2) whether, in view of the statements contained in that pronouncement, he is now in a position to inform the House when the Government will introduce a Bill dealing with the Irish University question?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E): As regards the second paragraph of the hon. Gentleman's Question, I have not—as he may probably have anticipated—anything to add to the answer I gave him, and, I think, another hon. Member, on the some subject earlier in the Session. With reference to the first paragraph, my attention has been directed to the pronouncement of the Archbishops and Bishops. I fully recognise the conciliatory spirit which animates those prelates, and the importance of the pronouncement they have made.

MR. DILLON: I must confess that I did not anticipate the nature of the reply of the right hon. Gentleman, and I am very much disappointed by it. [*Ministerial cries of* "Order, order!"] I am going to ask a question—namely, whether, in view of the right hon. Gentleman's statement at the commencement of this Session, and of the way in which that statement has been met by the Archbishops and Bishops of Ireland, he cannot now give us some definite pledge as to when a Bill will be introduced on this subject, which is now practically a non-contentious one?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: It is clear that the hon. Gentleman is wrong in thinking that the subject is a non-contentious one; but, quite apart from that, I think he must feel that my answer is a perfectly reasonable one, and absolutely consistent with everything I have said, either in speeches or in answer to questions in this Session or in any other.

MR. DILLON: In consequence of the answer of the right hon. Gentleman, which I do not consider at all reasonable —[*cries of* "Order!"]—I beg to give notice that I shall raise the question on the Estimates.

DUKE AND DUCHESS OF YORK (VISIT TO IRELAND).

MR. WILLIAM JOHNSTON (Belfast, S.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether the statement is correct that their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of York are about to visit Ireland; and, if so, whether it will be possible for them to visit Belfast and Ulster, where they will have a cordial welcome?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: I understand it is a fact that their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of York propose to visit Ireland in the course of the present summer; but, of course, it will depend on their Royal Highnesses themselves what is to be the length of their visit and the places to which they will go.

SUPPLY (IRISH ESTIMATES).

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY, in reply to Mr. JOHN MORLEY (Montrose Burghs), said the Irish Estimates would be taken to-morrow night.

WRECK OF STEAMSHIP "ADEN."

MR. GIBSON BOWLES asked the President of the Board of Trade whether he proposed to hold any inquiry into the lamentable loss of the steamship *Aden* on the Island of Sokotra, and whether that inquiry would include the consideration of the question of the desirability of erecting a lighthouse there?

MR. RITCHIE: Yes, Sir; it is the intention of the Board of Trade to hold an inquiry, and of course if there be reason to suppose that the loss of the ship was caused by any want of a proper light, that, no doubt, will be brought into evidence. I desire to take the opportunity in regard to this matter to read to the House a telegram I have received from Her Majesty:—

> "The Queen is deeply concerned at the disaster of the loss of the *Aden*, and asks you to express her sincere sympathy and condolence with the bereaved and the survivors in the terrible sufferings they must have undergone."

["Hear, hear!"]

QUEEN AND THE COMMONS.

MR. THOMAS BAYLEY (Derbyshire, Chesterfield): I desire to ask the First Lord of the Treasury what reply has been made to Her Majesty's gracious Message to the House on Tuesday night last?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: I should say the best reply which the House can make is for hon. Members to go down to Windsor on Saturday. [*Cheers.*]

Mr. W. Johnston.

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND) BILL.

THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire,) moved: "That this Bill be now read a Second time."

MR. T. SHAW (Hawick Burghs) proposed to leave out the word "now," and at the end of the Question to add the words "upon this day three months." He though the Scottish Members and the Scottish people were quite entitled to complain of the short time that had been given for the consideration of the Measure. The subject was one in which the Scottish people took the deepest interest, and it was only on Tuesday last that the print of the Bill reached Scotland. They were, accordingly, without any guidance from the School Boards of Scotland and from the people of Scotland at large, who were deeply interested in the Measure. They were asked to discuss the Second Reading of the Bill without a single Parliamentary return showing the operation and effect of the Measure. They were asked to discuss the merits or demerits of a Measure which only forty-eight hours ago had reached Scotland, and which to this hour had not seen the light of day in a large part of the Scottish area. When they came to examine the provisions of the Bill, then their dissatisfaction greatly deepened, and it deepened into the strongest objection to the Measure. He moved the rejection of the Bill primarily on the ground of its gross inadequacy to meet the requirements of the case. They could not increase the grant proposed by a single penny. They could only mark their sense of its inadequacy by moving the rejection of the Measure as a whole. The money proposed to be given to Scotland under the Bill was £40,000. The sum of £28,000 was to be given to School Boards, and £12,000 to the fragment of their educational system in Scotland known as the Voluntary Schools, and this was to be done under what in Scotland they believed to be the iniquitous method of a preferential grant to the voluntary system of education. He gave the Lord Advocate full credit for the £26,000 which he said was required to keep up their measure of 12s. per head instead of 10s. in England. As to that £26,000 he should have to show how it would be reduced to the extent of £8,000. But in reference to this Bill he must now ask the House to consider what was the position of Scotland in regard to the legislation of this Session, as there had to be taken by action of that House in its legislative capacity from the Imperial Treasury a sum amounting to about £800,000. Where was that taken from? It was taken from the Imperial Treasury to which the Scottish taxpayers, one and all, had contributed, and Scotland had been and was a contributor to the very fund which had been taken to the extent of £800,000 for exclusively English purposes. The principle had been recognised since the year 1888, and had been repeatedly acted upon since, in regard to technical education and in a large variety of items including, indeed, the legislation of last year as to the agricultural rates, of the equivalent grant which they as Scottish Members were emphatic in their determination, if possible, to induce the Government to apply to the subject now in hand. Under that equivalent grant they should get a sum of £110,000 per annum for Scottish local purposes, but under the Bill before the House they were only to get £40,000. He was perfectly willing not to state the principle of the equivalent grant in his own words, but to use the words of its author, the First Lord of the Admiralty. "This equivalent grant" (said the First Lord of the Admiralty),

> "was originally conceived in order to save Ireland and Scotland from a disadvantage under which they would otherwise have laid."

Up to the point, therefore, to which they had gone they saw that this Bill was not a Bill for the purpose of saving them from the disadvantage under which they would lie, by a comparison with the English grant of the present year, but it was a Bill which would ratify and sanction by Parliamentary approval, the disadvantage which the author of the grant principle stated that he wished studiously to avoid. Again the Chancellor of the Exchequer said, that the principle of the equivalent grant was this—

> "It was held by Parliament and repeatedly acted upon, that when a certain proportion of the Imperial revenue was intercepted from the common purposes of the United Kingdom and handed over to England and relief of local ratepayers, that an equivalent grant should be made to Scotland and to Ireland in the proportion of 80, 11 and 9, which should be expended for the local purposes of those other parts of the United Kingdom."

He asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he was going to interpose in this Debate, if he could give any solid or sufficient reason why a principle he had adopted when dealing with an Irish matter, should not also be adopted when dealing with a Scotch matter deeply affecting the interests of the whole Scottish people. This Bill instead of being an adherence to the principle of avoiding any disadvantage to Scotland, was a deliberate violation not only of the principle laid down, but was also contrary to the practice of Parliament and it would require a very considerable amount of explanation, argument, and defence before the Scottish people would be satisfied that they had been justly and fairly treated in this matter. On the sum awarded under this Bill there would be £40,000 granted, but on the explanation given by the Lord Advocate, there would be £66,000. From the £26,000 added, according to the Lord Advocate's explanation, £8,000 must, he thought, be deducted. Take it any way they liked, Scotland was being unjustly deprived of her due share of public money. If £40,000 was to be granted, she was deprived of £70,000 a year, and if the other principle were adopted she would lose £44,000 a year, while, should there be the deduction of £8,000 to which he had referred, she would be unjustly deprived of £52,000 a year. The Scottish people would not be slow to characterise the Bill in terms not approved in this House as one under which Scotland would be cheated to the extent of £1,000 a week. He understood that the true defence of the Measure was, that there was a desire to introduce symmetrical treatment in the matter of educational grants. That raised at once Scotland's cardinal objection, because they objected to have their Scottish educational system moulded on the lines of the English system. ["Hear, hear!"] For centuries Scotland had been in advance of England in this matter, and it stood to reason that the lines of symmetry which was the defence of this Measure meant the lines of educational reaction. Besides, the symmetrical principle was illogical, because it applied the symmetrical method to systems which were diverse in their operation. The modern educational feature of which Scotland was proud was that they had School Boards in every district in Scotland. The Voluntary Schools were comparatively few. For every Voluntary School in England there were only four Board Schools; but in Scotland, for every five Voluntary Schools there were thirty-three Board Schools. A more striking contrast could not be conceived between the two systems, and if the lesson of the Bill was to introduce symmetrical treatment between England and Scotland, then he would say that that was the peculiar hardship of the Bill, because the best thing that had happened since the passing of the Act of 1872 for Scotland had been the absorption of the Voluntary Schools into the Board School system. In Scotland they had 523 Free Church Schools. Every one of these had been given up by the Free Church, for that Church had recognised that the time had gone by for propagating education under anything like a sectarian mechanism. Why, then, should Scotland be punished for having so few of those Voluntary Schools? These had been multiplied in Scotland as in England. Instead of getting £12,000 for Voluntary Schools Scotland would have got £80,000, so that Scotland was to be punished to the extent of £68,000 a year because that country had approved of the management of education by public School Boards, and had been loyal to the Act of 1872. The House would require some extraordinary explanation of that conduct on the part of Her Majesty's Government, for if it was symmetry they were to be governed by, Scotland was to pay far too high a price for it. But was it symmetry? So far as grants to Voluntary Schools and necessitous Board Schools were concerned, if the system was to be symmetrical it must be a complete symmetry; yet there was no proposal by the Government to make any alteration in the working of the 17s. 6d. limit in Scotland, although they had abolished the working of that system in England. That was not a small affair, because under this Bill they would still have continued the deductions from that grant. If they were to have in Scotland a system symmetrical with that of England, why not abolish the 17s. 6d. limit and give to Scotland the £73,000 she would thereby gain? The next point was that there had been no general public demand in Scotland for any measure of this kind. No such proposal had emanated from any School Board in Scotland, and as to the Highland districts, they wanted to know from the Lord Advocate whether the relief to Board Schools was to affect the Highlands of Scotland? He took it that it was to affect all schools generally, and, if so, observe the predicament the Government was in. If it affected the Highlands it affected the area which already was the subject of special educational grants and special treatment to bring the Board Schools up to solvency and efficiency. Therefore, he suspected that if this measure was to be operative in the Highlands the increased grant under this Bill would be an unanswerable weapon for stopping the present special grants for making the Highland Schools efficient and solvent, and so they would be robbing Peter to pay Paul. And as for the Voluntary Schools, the Scottish Voluntary Schools, unlike those of England, were suffering no intolerable strain, and they filled up no educational gap, because under statute Scotland was meeting the educational requirements of the country. So far from the Voluntary Schools of Scotland suffering from any intolerable strain, they had thriven and fattened on the grants which had already been given them. As an illustration, he pointed out that in 1872 the Roman Catholic Schools in the whole of Scotland numbered 22, but grants had been made and aid given with the result that these schools in 1896 numbered 183. They had been able by the existing system to increase their numbers ninefold.

Mr. ARTHUR O'CONNOR (Donegal, E.): Without any charge to the rates.

Mr. T. SHAW agreed with the hon. Member, but said the educational efficiency was the best answer to the suggestion which the interruption involved. Sound public opinion in Scotland was for a national and against the voluntary system of education. They had hoped, not for a Bill of this kind, but for a Bill which would recognise the difference between the English and the Scottish systems, and which would also recognise that in Scotland secondary education was the peculiar care of all the School Boards. They wanted a Measure which would methodise the existing grants for secondary and technical education, which would see that all the public moneys devoted to the subject were really used to promote such education, and which would make a further effort to make free the entire system of education—not only primary, but also secondary and technical. From the Reformation downwards, amid many material privations, education, not of the few but of the many, and education, not to elementary limits but to the highest point attainable, had been the ideal of the people at large in Scotland; and the reason was that they had found in a scheme of that kind, in Knox's language, the best security for "the comfort of the Commonwealth." With this money, which was their due, a great national opportunity was offered, but by this Bill a great national opportunity had been thrown away. The Bill, if it were proceeded with, would be forced upon Scotland against its will. As proof of this statement, he pointed out that they had three great institutions which handled the subject of Board and secondary education—the Educational Institute of Scotland, the School Boards Association, and the Association for Promoting Secondary and Technical Education. Within a week's time each of these great public institutions had declared, almost in vehement terms, against the Measure of the Government. ["Hear, hear!"] At a meeting of the Executive of the Scottish School Boards Association on the 28th June—

"reference was made to the proposed Government grant and to the Bill which had been introduced by the Lord Advocate, providing for the disposal of the same. Disappointment was expressed that the principle of an equivalent to the grant for England should have been departed from. It was felt that the amount of the grant was too small, and the method of its application inequitable and quite inadequate to meet the necessities of the case of Scotch education."

The Executive Committee of the Scottish Association for the Promotion of Technical and Secondary Education said,—

"In many quarters dissatisfaction is already being expressed at the prospect of a restricted view being taken of the claims of Scotland to receive at this time a considerable grant for educational purposes. It appears to this Committee particularly unfortunate, when the reorganisation of higher education in Scotland is taking place, that there should be the possibility of financial difficulties in the matter, and that such an opportunity should be lost of providing satisfactorily for the evident needs of secondary and technical education."

The Educational Institute of Scotland adopted several resolutions—

"1st. That the School Board system being universal in Scotland, the Educational Institute of Scotland hopes that the manner and conditions of distributing the proposed aid grant to Voluntary Schools by the Education Department shall be such that they can not be taken advantage of to increase the number of these schools."

"2nd. That a sum proportionally equivalent to that required in England under the provisions of the Voluntary Schools Act, and of the Necessitous Board Schools Act of this year, should be devoted to Scotch education.

"3rd. That in so far as the total grant to Scotland under the proposals of the Government will come short of the proportionate equivalent to that provided for England under the Education Acts of this year, the difference should be set apart for further educational purposes in Scotland."

And they went on to say,—

"There is especial need for aid in connection with higher education. In rural districts the laudable attempts of School Boards to provide higher education for the community in the ordinary public schools are seriously hampered by want of funds; and in urban communities the paucity of funds is no less a bar to success."

These were early but important expressions of public opinion, and, unless the Government took heed in time, they would find that this was only the beginning of a storm north of the Tweed. If the Government were wise they would be warned ere it was too late. Scotland was entitled to expect that the British Treasury should be approached with more firmness and spirit by a Scotch Department which had a Cabinet Minister at its head. He asked the Government on an early occasion to produce a Measure which would be more worthy of a powerful Ministry, and which would show more respect to the needs, to the traditions, and to the rights of Scotland. [*Cheers.*] He begged to move his Amendment, "That the Bill be read a Second time upon this day six months."

Mr. THOMAS HEDDERWICK (Wick Burghs) supported the Amendment. They did not move the rejection of this Measure from any indifference to the interests of education. If others forgot, they, at all events, remembered, that it was to that side of the House that the country owed its present system of education. The foundations of that system were laid broad and deep by Liberal statesmen. They had reason to be proud of their achievement, and were not likely to be either slack or negligent in the maintenance and preservation of a structure which cost the Liberal Party many a struggle to rear and which had proved itself already, even in this generation, an incalculable blessing to the people. They moved the rejection of this Measure because they were alive to the importance of the matter, and because they were satisfied that the Bill now before the House was inadequate, ill-conceived, and prejudicial to the best interests of national education. What was the genesis of the Bill? Had it sprung from the demand of the people of Scotland? Had it emanated from a genuine desire on the part of the Government to redress some intolerable grievance in the Scottish system? Was it offered to them because Her Majesty's Ministers believed it to be necessary in itself? None of these things were true. It was thrown to them as a bone was thrown to a barking dog—because the Government, having voted enormous sums for England, felt that something must be done, whether well or ill done, to stifle the clamour for an equivalent grant that was justly due to Scotland. Were the Government anxious to promote the interests of education in Scotland? If they were, why did they only the other night cut off the grant from the evening continuation schools? Were they really anxious to promote the highest interests of education in Scotland? If they were, why did they offer them a limited grant of £40,000, instead of the £100,000 to which, relatively and proportionately to England, they were entitled? The Chancellor of the Exchequer said this was not a case for an equivalent grant. Why? Because, forsooth, the educational systems in the two countries were not identical. He thought the Government had done with logic; but, if they had not, to what a preposterous position they were reduced by their Bill. The systems were not identical. Therefore, when it was a question of grant, they were to have £40,000 only instead of £100,000. But when the expenditure came to be considered it was to be distributed as if the two systems were alike. Could anything be more illogical, more absurd, more untenable, except, possibly, from the point of view of a Chancellor of the Exchequer and a parsimonious Treasury? The systems were not identical. That was apparently sound ground to stand upon financially, since it enabled the Government to cut down the grant; but, the money having been voted, the ground of its limitation was contemptuously ignored, and the money was allocated upon the lines of a system to which it was admitted the educational system of Scotland bore no analogy! In Scotland School Boards were everywhere, and Voluntary Schools were few in number—so few that the grant of 3s. and 1s. respectively would amount on the average to little more than 1s. per head as against an average of 3s. 3d. in England. Could the Chancellor of the Exchequer contend that that was a fair proportion? But he objected personally, upon principle, to the granting of public money to schools whose sole *raison d'être* was the teaching of sectarian doctrines. The principle was unsound, and if it were admitted without protest he could not see upon what ground the principle of concurrent endowment could be effectively resisted. In the case of England the grant of public money to Voluntary Schools was defended upon the ground that the English system was a compromise, and that the Voluntary Schools educated more than half the youth of England. No such argument could be employed in the case of Scotland. In 1872 there were only 46 Episcopal and 22 Roman Catholic Schools in Scotland. If there were more now they had grown with the growth of the Board Schools, and under the existing conditions of the established system. Nor had there been any cry of an intolerable strain from the subscribers to the Voluntary Schools in Scotland. The gift of 3s. to these schools by the Government was therefore a spontaneous and gratuitous gift, without any basis in justice or necessity, and it constituted a grievance of which the Board Schools very justly complained. The hon. and learned Member for the Border Burghs had quoted memorials emanating from public bodies in Scotland most qualified to speak with authority upon this subject. He believed that the protests of these bodies expressed in very mild language the feelings with which this Measure would be received by the people of Scotland. Upon this ground, and for the reasons which he had endeavoured briefly to indicate, he begged leave to second the Amendment moved by his hon. and learned Friend.

Mr. ORR-EWING (Ayr Burghs) said he supported the Bill, which had been received more coldly than it deserved. It was true there was a certain amount of disappointment that secondary and technical education had not been dealt with in the Bill, but he hoped with some confidence that next year the Government would bring in a separate Bill dealing with those important branches of education, and placing them on a broad and practical basis. The amount of the grant that Scotland was going to receive was a matter he would not discuss. He supposed there was no record at the Treasury of any grant ever having been thought satisfactory by the recipients, and certainly they, as Scotsmen, would be unfaithful to all the traditions of their race if, when there was any money to be got, they did not try to get as much of it as they possibly could. He sincerely hoped that when secondary and technical education were dealt with, Scotland would get more than she was about to receive under the present Bill. But the amount of the grant having been settled, the question was how to make the best use of it in the interests of all educational institutions. So far as he could see, the proposals of the Bill were just in that respect. It was impossible to overlook the claims of the Voluntary Schools of Scotland considering the Bill which had been passed that Session for England. The Voluntary Schools in Scotland had a stronger claim for relief than even the Voluntary Schools of England. In Scotland the Voluntary Schools were small in number, and they mostly consisted of Roman Catholic and Episcopalian Schools, while all the Board Schools were practically denominational, the Bible and the Shorter Catechism of the Presbyterian religion being taught in them. He found from a return of the Scotch Education Department that during the last ten years the subscriptions to Voluntary Schools amounted to £288,000, and the voluntary subscriptions to the Board Schools to only £4,500. During the same period the Board Schools received out of the rates £2,461,000, and the Voluntary Schools, of course, received nothing from that source. Again, there was a considerable number of children educated in the Voluntary Schools. The average attendance last year in those schools was 80,000 per day, as against 580,000 in the Board Schools. It was said that the attendance in the Board Schools was decreasing in number, but that was a misleading argument. The Presbyterian Voluntary Schools were decreasing, for, very naturally, Presbyterian parents preferred to send their children to very good Board Schools where, besides, they would be taught the same religion as in the Voluntary Schools. The Episcopalian Schools had increased about 10 per cent., and the Roman Catholic Schools about 35 per cent. during the last ten years, and, speaking as a Presbyterian, he thought it was only fair and just that those schools should get a share of the Government grant. It should be remembered that all schools were supported by the State with the object of bringing the best brain in the country to the front, irrespective of creed.

Mr. ROBINSON SOUTTAR (Dumfriesshire) said he felt a certain amount of responsibility in opposing the Bill, because a good many Scotsmen would think that, after all, half a loaf was better than no bread, and that it was a pity to throw away by rejecting what they were offered by the Government. But he felt, even on the low ground of policy, that in the present instance no bread was better than half a loaf. Scotland was not a pauper claiming relief. They had not asked for this thing, and they did not realise that there was any necessity in Scotland claiming this relief. But if they were to get anything at all, they must receive what they were entitled to in bare justice. What was the question they had to settle in regard to this matter? It was simply this—was the predominant partner to be allowed to put her hand into the common purse whenever she liked, and take out of it for herself whatever she liked, and hand over to Scotland just as little as she liked? The Scotch Members did not ask that the common purse should be opened, but, now that it was opened, they would be utterly false to their trust if they were to accept a penny less than 100 per cent. of their just claim, and they would also permit in that case an exceedingly dangerous precedent to be set up. The principle upon which equivalent grants were settled between England and Scotland was the proportion of 80 to 11. The predominant partner had put her hands into the common purse and taken out £727,000 for herself, of which £617,000 was given to the Voluntary Schools and £110,000 to the Board Schools. The generosity with which the sectarian schools were treated in England might be represented by the figure 5. The meanness with which the Board Schools were treated in England might be represented by the figure 1. But that was a question for English Members. He would point out that in order that Scotland might get justice, she ought to receive £100,000 or £110,000. Instead of that, Scotland was to receive under this Bill just one-half of what she was entitled to. The Lord Advocate, when introducing the Bill, spoke about equality of treatment, and said that the Board Schools in Scotland were to be treated just as the Board Schools in England were treated. But the Board Schools in England had been treated in the most miserly fashion, and the Government proposed to take this niggardly treatment and apply it as the basis of treatment to Scotland. In England the Board Schools had at least the consolation of feeling that if they had been niggardly treated their friends the Voluntary Schools had been treated with great generosity, but to Scotland even this poor consolation was denied, for the Voluntary Schools, as well as the Board Schools, were treated in the most miserable way. Instead of getting 5s. per head, as was given to the Voluntary Schools in England, the Voluntary Schools of Scotland were only to get 3s. per head. In one word, while England received under her Acts 3s. 3d. for each child out of the common purse, Scotland was to receive only 1s. for each of her children. All that Scotland asked for was simply justice. She did not want one penny more than was fairly her due, and she would not have one penny less. But he contended that Scotland should get more, and not less, for both her Voluntary and her Board Schools. She was entitled to more for her Board Schools, because of the wonderful manner in which she had carried out the Board Schools Act. He had heard English Members speak of the extravagance of the Board Schools of England. He wished those English Members could visit his native town of Aberdeen, and see the palaces that had been erected there for the purposes of education. And yet the people of Aberdeen were not lavish of their money. [*Laughter.*] It was said, indeed, that Aberdeen was the only city in the world where a Jew could not thrive. [*Laughter.*] Yet the people of Aberdeen had not spared a pound that could be spent on increasing the efficiency of education. With regard to sectarian schools, he respected conscientiousness; but he believed that in England there was a great deal of sectarian education with which conscientiousness had nothing to do. It was often the result of fear of a School Board rate. In Scotland that was not so, for there was a School Board in every parish. Therefore, if anything, the Scotch grant to Voluntary Schools should be larger than the English. But though it might be true that the position of elementary education in Scotland left little to be desired, secondary education was in different case. Scotch boys were sent to the Universities far earlier than in England, because the arrangements for secondary education were weak. He was sorry, therefore, that the Government had denied to Scotland her just due, for the money might have been spent with immense benefit to the people of Scotland and with great credit to the Government.

*MR. J. A. CAMPBELL (Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities) said that hon. Members opposite were labouring under the idea that this Bill was necessarily the last word of the Government in the matter of giving additional assistance to education in Scotland. That was an entire mistake. ["Hear, hear!" *from the* CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER.] If he thought it was the last word he should share the disappointment of hon. Members. But he supported the Second Reading with the qualification that the Bill was not to be accepted as a full discharge of what might be considered to be due to education in Scotland because of what had already been done this year for education in England. [*Ironical Opposition cheers.*] The Bill so closely resembled the English Bills in form, that it might seem strange to English Members that Scotch Members on his side of the House should only support it with the qualification he had mentioned. But the circumstances of the two countries with regard to schools and educational legislation were so different that it did not follow that the Measures suitable for one country would be suitable for the other in the same degree. The principal educational Measure of this year for England was the Bill for giving additional assistance to Voluntary Schools. In Scotland there were only 390 Voluntary out of a total of 3,120 State-aided schools; so that to pass a similar Measure for their assistance, however proper in itself, would not give Scotland equal treatment with England in the matter of additional assistance from the public funds for the promotion of education. England had been in want of additional assistance for its Voluntary Schools; Scotland was in want of additional assistance for other educational objects. Scotland would accept this Bill as a payment to account of what was due —but not as payment in full. The position of his country in relation to the question now before the House could not be properly understood without bearing in mind the difference between England and Scotland in respect of educational arrangements. Scotland had an Education Act of its own—one which differed from the English Act in important respects—it had a separate Education Code and a separate Education Department. As had been often stated in these discussions, while the English was an Elementary Education Act, the Scotch was an Education Act without the restricting word "elementary." The Report of the Scotch Department contained paragraphs headed "Secondary Education" and "Technical Education." The Department had to do with the examination of Higher Class Schools, with Secondary Departments in State-aided schools, and with advanced instruction in the ordinary schools. Again, they had in Scotland local committees in the counties and large burghs, organised under a Minute of the Education Department and responsible to that Department. Their system was thus one which embraced advanced as well as elementary instruction. In Scotland the primary branch of education was comparatively well-provided for; but the Voluntary Schools and certain of the School Boards were entitled to receive such assistance as the Bill would give. The Voluntary Schools were under a certain disadvantage as compared with Board Schools in having no share of the School Rate, and when a similar disadvantage suffered by Voluntary Schools in England was met by the Bill passed this Session, it would be inconsistent not to give help of the same kind to the schools in Scotland. In like manner necessitous School Boards must be considered. Assistance was given to them in Scotland under the existing law, but something further was required, and it was proposed to be given under this Bill. He thought, therefore, that the Bill was reasonable and right as far as it went. But as regarded the larger question of what was due to education in Scotland, because of what had recently been done for England, he would look on this Bill as an instalment, and an instalment only. It was sufficient of its kind—but something more was wanted of another kind. Scotland required assistance for the development of secondary and technical education. A beginning had been made by the local committees. If only the resources of those committees were increased, much good might be done, but an improved organisation also was desirable to bring all parts of the country under something of a uniform system, and to have that system properly supervised. The Education Department was moving in that direction. It was in future to have the administration of the Science and Art grants, and it was endeavouring to bring technical instruction more closely in connection with the local committees on secondary education. But it was undeniable that the cause of advanced education required more assistance. Private liberality might be appealed to, but in order to elicit private liberality it was desirable that the national importance of well-equipped schools for that kind of education be recognised by liberal assistance to them from the public funds. Private liberality may be trusted to do much to supplement what is done by the State, but the State must first show that it regards the object as one of national importance. He had said nothing of University Education. In Scotland it had never been usual to look upon the Universities as institutions standing entirely apart; but as the terminus to which all schools should point the way. Were any portion of a grant for education to be bestowed on the Universities, it would excite no surprise in Scotland. Education was there a wide term. The present position in Scotland was simply this—that while they themselves required assistance for education in the broad sense they were called upon to pay their share of certain assistance to elementary education in England and Wales. They did not grudge that contribution, but they contended that it was only equitable that a corresponding amount of assistance should be given to Scotland towards the educational work which stood waiting to be undertaken there, of which assistance the grants under the present Bill were only an instalment. In saying that Scotland looked for much more than the Bill offered he was following an excellent lead—that of the Scotch Education Department—because in a circular of the Department, dated June 10, relating to a Minute of the same date, on "the distribution of the sum available for secondary education," he found the following words:—

> "In connection with the additional educational grants which it is proposed to make to England, a claim for a corresponding measure of liberality arises for Scotland, and my Lords trust that the increased resources thus made available will stimulate further development of education in all its branches."

Here we had the declaration of the Department that a claim for a corresponding

measure of liberality had arisen for Scotland, and we had besides, the expression of the trust of the Department that a stimulus for the further development of education in all its branches would be given by "the increased resources thus made available." In the light of that statement he was surely justified in regarding the grants under the present Bill as an instalment—a just and reasonable instalment, but still only an instalment—of what was due to Scotland in consideration of the additional grants made to England and Wales.

Mr. ARTHUR O'CONNOR was of opinion that the Bill did not do justice to Scotland as a whole, and especially to Voluntary Schools. The Voluntary Schools in Scotland had at least, as well as the Voluntary Schools in this country, deserved well of the community. They were for the most part the schools of the poor. They had been launched by those who had, in many cases, conscientious objections to education for their children in any school but their own. They had furnished the schools and maintained them out of their own resources, without any charge whatever on the rates. They had not received a penny they had not earned under existing regulations and in accordance with Government requirements. They were paid, not in respect of denominational teaching or framing, but exclusively for the secular education which they afforded. They asked for no more than that. Now of the Voluntary Schools in Scotland, by far the greater number were Catholic schools. Out of 390 Voluntary Schools, 180 were Catholic schools, educating, without any charge to the ratepayers, something like 500,000 children. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had stated that the object of the Bill was to treat Scotland in exactly the same way as England. But under the English Bill Voluntary Schools in England were relieved of the burden of rates, while under this Bill Voluntary Schools in Scotland were subjected to the burden of rates. In that respect this Bill was very far from being fair to Scotland as compared with England. The burden of rates was one which would press more heavily in the future on schools. On 23rd October last a circular was issued from the Local Government Board in Scotland to the effect that the rating authorities had no discretion in the assessment of school premises, many of them having been in the habit of exercising a merciful discretion in respect of school premises. Under those circumstances he hoped the Government would see their way to assent in the Committee stage to an Amendment which would put Scottish Voluntary Schools on the same footing as English Voluntary Schools.

*Mr. R. B. HALDANE (Haddingtonshire) observed that every speech made in the Debate, from whichever side, picked holes in the Bill. The fact was that the Government would not in their educational Measures, whether introduced for the sake of England or Scotland, look at the point at which they ought to look; they would not put educational efficiency in the first place. They would not concentrate themselves on that, but they would try to redeem pledges, real or fancied, which had been given at election times, now far distant, and against which it might now be fairly supposed that the Parliamentary Statute of Limitations had run. One would imagine that it was now possible for the Government, two years after the General Election, to look at what most conduces to education instead of what conduces to the well-being of little sections of far less importance than was attributed to them, and which seemed to be making claims successfully on all hands, to the prejudice of those who represented the general opinion about education in the country. In saying that he was not saying that Voluntary Schools had not a claim to consideration and the 17s. 6d. limit pressed upon them strongly. The Bill did very little towards their relief, and the schools with the smaller incomes would receive less benefit than the schools with the larger incomes. The Government did not satisfy the primary claim of their clients. What were the Scotch Catholic schools asking for? They had raised their schools to a certain state of efficiency, and they would be glad to get their share of the public money, and would submit themselves to the strictest conditions of inspection providing there was no interference with their religious teaching. But the Bill proposed to give them a mere trifle, something that would go a very little way to meet their necessities, and it imposed no conditions as to the standard of teaching. True, it was said that the Education Department were to lay down conditions, but there was not an inkling of what they were going to be, or upon what footing the money was to be distributed, and least of all was it known whether the Catholics would be put in a position to get their share of public money like others on the basis of educational efficiency. The criticisms from the hon. Members who had spoken were well founded and the Government would do well to consider them. The matter did not rest there. It had been pointed out by hon. Members who had spoken what the demand in Scotland was, and which the Bill did nothing to meet, though it had been the subject of private, public, and official representations. The system existing in Scotland since 1872 was not merely a system of elementary education. The Act of that year provided more than an elementary education following the traditions of the Scotch parish schools which gave an education far beyond what could be considered elementary. In Scotland there were two sets of educational institutions and not three. In England there were the Universities, the public and intermediate schools, and the elementary schools. In Scotland Board Schools often gave a considerable amount of secondary education, and the Universities came much nearer to the schools than was or could be the case in

England. As a result there was an educational system organised on a wholly different basis, and on this basis there was urgent need of assistance. The point at which the assistance was urgently required was where scholars passed from the schools, which were not elementary and were not quite secondary schools in the sense in which the term was understood in England, though they gave a certain amount of secondary education, and the Scotch Universities which gave a little more than secondary education. These were four in number, and were of course sometimes distant from the homes of students the sons of poor parents. By a judicious extension of the system of bursaries more assistance could be given to Scotch education than in any other way. But what did the Bill do towards realising that claim? Did it even assist the schools by putting pupils in such a condition as would enable them to take advantage of the University system? It did nothing of the sort, and the House was face to face with a state of things in which money was more urgently wanted than for any other purpose, and the Bill was silent upon the claim. They were not in a position to assume as conceded in their own favour the basis of the equivalent grant, for the Government had laid down their policy, and Scotch Members must be content, but putting that principle out of account it was admitted that something was wanted to assist Scotch education where the need was urgent. Because the Bill did not do that, because it deliberately set aside Scottish opinion and neglected claims entitled to recognition, he felt bound to give his vote for the Amendment of his hon. Friend.

The LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. Graham Murray, Buteshire) said the discussion had been financial rather than educational in its character, and the hon. Member who had just spoken made one concession he was most glad to welcome, that the Government were entitled to abandon, as he called it, the principle of the equivalent grant.

*Mr. HALDANE said he had admitted the Government had taken up a strong position on this point, and he did not think it right to argue the question, and he therefore placed himself on a footing which was common ground.

The LORD ADVOCATE said that was an observation the hon. Gentleman made at the beginning of his speech; the remark to which he was now referring was towards the end of the hon. Member's speech, and the import of what he said was that the Government were quite entitled to say that the equivalent grant did not apply to the matter in hand. Of course he was perfectly aware that this had not been the view of other speakers, and in particular the hon. Member for the Border Burghs who had moved the rejection of the Bill based himself on the equivalent grant almost alone. Accordingly the first question for the House to consider was whether really the equivalent grant had any relation to the topic with which the House was dealing. The hon. Member in support of his proposition made a certain quotation from a speech of his right hon. colleague the First Lord of the Admiralty. He did not actually say from what particular speech that quotation was taken, but probably it was a speech made at the time when an equivalent grant was made to Scotland in respect of contribution from Imperial sources in aid of local taxation.

Mr. T. SHAW said the speech was much more recent; it was delivered on 6th May this year, when the right hon. Gentleman absolutely defended the principle of the equivalent grant.

The LORD ADVOCATE said he did not remember the occasion.

Mr. T. SHAW said it was in discussion on the Irish Financial Relations and the right hon. Gentleman defended the relative proportions of 80, 11, and 9.

The LORD ADVOCATE said he could not deal with that particular speech which was not within his recollection, but he thought he was right in supposing that his right hon. Friend was then dealing with the subventions to local taxation, but whether he was right in that supposition or not, he wished to bring before the House the obvious distinction in principle when dealing by equivalent grant with subsidies from Imperial sources in aid of local burdens, and in dealing with such a subject as education, in which the conditions might vary in the two countries, though undoubtedly the duty of the Imperial Government was the same in either country. The principle adhered to was that education was a national subject, and there should be corresponding treatment of it in the various parts of the Kingdom, but you cannot take a certain portion for England and, drawing a geographical line, say so much money being spent in England raises the right in another part of the Kingdom to a certain proportionate sum. There was no particular reason for the delimitation of Scotland any more than there was for a delimination of London or Lancashire.

MR. BUCHANAN said the two countries had separate Education Departments.

THE LORD ADVOCATE said yes, for purposes of administration they had, but as far as the duty of the Imperial Parliament was concerned there was no difference in the national duty towards Scotland and England.

MR. BUCHANAN said there were separate laws and separate Departments.

THE LORD ADVOCATE said there were differences in the ways the grants were administered, but that the duty of the Imperial Parliament was the same in both countries, was a proposition not to be controverted, and this was a fatal stroke at the principle of the equivalent grant as applied to education. He quite agreed with the principle of a corresponding grant, and many persons might say that corresponding and equivalent meant the same thing. So that might be, but in the Parliamentary glossary the latter term had a technical meaning, and when he used the expression "equivalent grant" for clearness of discussion, he meant a grant computed in arithmetical proportion as between the countries. When he used the words "corresponding grant" he meant that any Imperial expenditure in England on education, necessitated in Scotland a corresponding grant from Imperial funds. This Bill carried out this undertaking. There was in the Bill what was in the two English Bills corresponding to this, a subvention for necessitous Board Schools, and a subvention to Voluntary Schools. Hon. Members opposite thought that when they said that they gave away their case. They did nothing of the sort. Hon. Gentlemen said that, though there was verbal equality, there was not real equality, because, while there was a great many Voluntary Schools in England, there were very few in Scotland, and that, although the Government affected to give equal treatment, and upon mere words did give equal treatment, between the one country and the other, they were really defrauding Scotland, because she had not got so many Voluntary Schools. It was perfectly true that so far as the Voluntary Schools grant was concerned—if they pinned themselves to that alone—Scotland would get rather the worst of it, because it had fewer Voluntary Schools, but hon. Members opposite had altogether found it convenient to forget the necessitous Board Schools. And just as Scotland lost upon the question of the Voluntary Schools so she gained upon the question of the necessitous Board Schools. He was not talking of equivalent proportions, but, using the equivalent grant as a mere barometer to see where the expenditure mounted to, let them look how the figures stood. Under the Bill which had been passed the amount allotted to necessitous Board Schools in England would be, roughly speaking, £154,000. The amount allotted to necessitous Board Schools in Scotland would be £41,000. Those proportions were as 80 to 21·6; but, according to the argument of hon. Gentlemen opposite, they ought to be as 80 to 11. In other words, Scotland had got 10 per cent. the better as regarded necessitous Board Schools. If they were to take the principle of the equivalent grant, how was it possible to confine their attention to the mere fragment of figures embodied in this particular Bill? ["Hear, hear!"] They must take the question of the equivalent grant altogether, and therefore, logically speaking, they would be entitled in showing whether there was justice or injustice between the two countries, to go far beyond the ambit of the educational Vote and take every Vote where there was an Imperial contribution as a local subvention. In the present case they must not pin their attention to the simple figures that were voted in this Bill, but must take the entire sums that were voted by the Imperial Parliament for the purposes of education. If they did that how did the figures stand? Deducting the fee grant—that was to say, taking merely the education grant—the total sum for England and Wales was £5,021,910, and the total sum for Scotland was £844,308. Putting that into proportions the English was to the Scotch as 80 was to 13·5.

Dr. CLARK (Caithness): Might I ask if the right hon. Gentleman is giving us together the amount earned by the scholars and the amount paid apart from what was earned?

The LORD ADVOCATE said he was giving the amount paid, not earned. He was going to answer by anticipation a question which he felt sure would be put by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Stirling Burghs. On the First Reading the right hon. Gentleman said their Scotch children were more assiduous, and that they were not entitled, as in the question of Imperial liberality, to put against the Scotch what they had earned by their assiduity. [*Opposition cheers.*] He entirely agreed, but just let him state how the figures stood here. If hon. Gentlemen would look into the Estimates for this year they would find that, roughly speaking, there was 2s. 6d. more earned by each Scotch child than by each English child. Of that 2s. 6d., 1s. represented the additional assiduity of the Scotch child, while 1s. 6d. of the 2s. 6d. represented the extra favourable conditions in the Code. Supposing they had an ideal school of 50 children who were perfectly capable. The position of the two educational systems was this, that 50 children of exceptional talent in Scotland could earn, as a matter of fact, 1s. 6d. per head more than 50 English children of the same calibre.

An hon. Member: Studying the same subjects?

The LORD ADVOCATE said No; but taking advantage of what the Imperial Parliament said they might get. It might be said that they should alter the two Codes and make them correspond, but all he was doing was pursuing the argument of what they got out of the Imperial Treasury. To make his argument quite correct upon this point, for the benefit of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for the Stirling Burghs, he proposed to deduct the 1s. per head, which represented the additional assiduity of the Scotch child, and the proportion of the total sum, which stood at 80 as to 13·5, would then be reduced to 80 as to 13. As long as he was above the 80 to 11 he entirely rebutted the charge that there had been any injustice to Scotland on the question of the equivalent grant. But he had not exhausted the whole of the advantages of Scotland when he had given these figures. In giving the total educational vote, hon. Members would notice that he particularly said he deducted the fee grant. As a matter of fact, the fee grant in England was 10s., while the fee grant in Scotland, according to the promise of his right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer, was going to be 12s. It had always been 12s., because they had always contributed 2s. out of local money. But as hon. Members knew—and here they must not merely take the Bill, but the whole educational policy of the Government—

there had been a promise made, ratified by a declaration which he had made across the Table of the House with the approval of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, that Imperial money would be given to keep for the future that amount of 2s. which would otherwise be exhausted. He would now give a very striking illustration of the method of criticism which had been adopted upon the other side of the House. The hon. Gentleman who moved the Amendment pinned his faith to what he described as a deficiency of £52,000. He did not admit the hon. Gentleman's figures. There was £41,200 which was given to Scotland under the necessitous Board clause, £12,500 under the Voluntary Schools capitation grant of 3s., and £26,000 under the promise of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to keep up the capitation grant of 12s. instead of 10s. The three sums made £79,800, or, roughly, £80,000. To England was given £617,000 under the Voluntary Schools scheme, and £110,000 under the necessitous Board School scheme, making £727,000. If they took the English grant at £727,000, the proportion would come out at £80,000. He agreed that 11-80ths of £44,000 had to be added to the £80,000, which would make the sum £86,000.

Mr. A. H. DYKE ACLAND (Yorks, W.R., Rotherham): The sum of £50,000 or £60,000 which was given under the 17s. 6d. limit should be added.

The LORD ADVOCATE said that that was a question he could not now discuss. He maintained that the sum would be £86,000 as against £110,000. Even if they took the addition under the 17s. 6d. limit, which the right hon. Member for Rotherham had just referred to, it was quite evident 11-80ths would not raise the £86,000 to £110,000; it would make it £93,000. But leaving the figures of the hon. Member for the Border Burghs as he himself stated them, there was a very curious illustration in respect to the question of the equivalent grant which would strike the House. In theory he would go back to 1870 and 1872. The 67th Clause of the Scotch Act and the 97th Clause of the English Act established the question of additional help to necessitous schools, and, accordingly, if the argument was worth anything, there ought to have been equivalent treatment as between the two countries at the time those two clauses were passed. How did the figures stand? Scotland was paid under the operation of the 67th Clause £13,800. An English Member might have said, "If you are passing a Bill which gives identical treatment, and Scotland is to get £13,800, we are entitled to a sum which will bear to £13,800 the same relation that 80 bears to 11." If such a proportional sum were worked out the answer would be found to be £100,360. As a matter of fact £41,600 was paid to England, so that there was a deficiency in the case of England of £58,760, a sum which was more than £6,000 above the deficiency which was complained of by the hon. Member for the Border Burghs. There were certain other topics dealt with by the hon. Member. He spoke of the Bill as being something in favour of symmetry, and he said symmetry meant educational reaction. The hon. Member proceeded to say that the proudest educational boast of Scotland was that there was a Board School in every parish. It certainly was a new doctrine to a Scotchman that the Scotch educational boast began in 1872. One used to hear about John Knox in connection with education. The hon. Member for the Wick Burghs said the educational system was founded by Liberal statesmen.

Mr. HEDDERWICK: I said the present system.

The LORD ADVOCATE thought the hon. Member made a wider claim; he was glad the hon. Gentleman gave up John Knox as a Liberal statesman. [*A laugh.*] Really this Bill had nothing to do with educational reaction. The Bill was admittedly introduced because of the Scotch demand that arose upon the help that had been given to primary education in England. The hon. Member spoke of the great sacrifices that had been made by the Free Church of Scotland. The hon. Gentleman might have quoted the Church of which he was a distinguished Member, the United

Presbyterian Church, and he need not have altogether forgotten, as he did, the Established Church of Scotland, because, while 500 schools were handed over by the Free Church, 1,000 were handed over by the Established Church. The two Churches knew very well that the national education that was going to be given in the Board Schools was to be denominational. ["Oh, oh!"] It was absurd to talk of the education in Roman Catholic and Episcopalian Schools as sectarian; it was denominational. The schools in favour of which the hon. Member for Donegal spoke were not one whit more denominational in their own way than the Board Schools were in their way. [Mr. MUNDELLA: "Oh, oh!"] The right hon. Gentleman the Member for Sheffield cried "Oh, oh!" He did not know how much the right hon. Gentleman knew or did not know of Scotland. [*Laughter.*]

*MR. A. J. MUNDELLA (Sheffield, Brightside): I administered the Scotch Education Acts for nearly six years.

The LORD ADVOCATE hoped the right hon. Gentleman had learned the Shorter Catechism. If he had not he did not know what denominational education in Scotland meant. [*Laughter*]. They were taught a religious education by a creed which was shared by the three great Churches of Scotland. It was a great advantage that the cleft which existed between those three great Churches had to do with Church government, and not with doctrine, so that they were enabled to have their common standard taught in the public schools of the country. ["Hear, hear!"] The hon. Member said next that there was no public demand for this Bill. Here again he thought he might appeal to the speech of the hon. Member for Donegal, and if he wanted a further witness he would ask the hon. Baronet the Member for Bridgeton (Sir Charles Cameron) to intervene. The hon. Baronet knew well that the Roman Catholic schools and the Episcopal schools would have felt themselves very unjustly treated if they had found that the Voluntary Schools in England were to be assisted, while they were to be left out in the cold. So far as the hon. Member for the Hawick Burghs was concerned, he could not but contrast the attitude of extra sympathy which the hon. Gentleman displayed with his Irish friends the other day on the question of the deportation of paupers when he was ready at their bidding to upset what was really the Scottish settlement system.

MR. T. SHAW: I must ask my right hon. friend to withdraw that observation. I am at nobody's bidding for the discharge of my public duty. What I consider is the merits or demerits of each case. [*Opposition cheers*].

THE LORD ADVOCATE: I am not aware that I said that the hon. Gentleman was at anyone's bidding. I would have made no such imputation. I do not withdraw it, because I did not make it. I said extra sympathy.

SIR W. HARCOURT: You said "at their bidding."

THE LORD ADVOCATE: Did I say that?

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT: Yes, you did.

MR. T. SHAW: You withdraw that, I suppose?

THE LORD ADVOCATE: Well, I absolutely withdraw if I said it. The reporters will bear me out as to whether I said it or not. Continuing, the right hon. Gentleman said he wished to contrast the hon. Member's attitude on the deportation of paupers' question with his attitude towards the Irish Members' very just demands on the present occasion. In regard to the application of the Bill to the Highlands, the Bill would have no effect whatever upon the application of the minute of March 1895 as to the Highlands grant. Coming to the general question of secondary education, he was entirely in sympathy with something that was said, but not entirely with the expression of it, by his hon. Friend the Member for Glasgow University. Of course the Government hoped that this was not the very last word of this or some other Government upon the question of education. [*Ironical Opposition cheers and laughter.*] He did not say that the Government was to be composed of people on the other side of the House. [*Ministerial cheers.*] But the point of the Bill was, that it was introduced in co-relation with the Measure introduced for the benefit of primary education in England, and, accordingly, all he said about secondary education was, that when it was taken up by the Imperial Exchequer, with a view to making direct grants in favour of secondary education, it must be taken up as a purely Imperial subject, and they could not keep it to Scotland. At present there was no direct grant from the Exchequer in favour of secondary education, and what he urged upon the House was that the question of this Bill was not upon the attitude of the Government to secondary education, that they had the cause of secondary education at heart, and that in future they hoped there might be steps taken in that direction, not only for Scotland but altogether for the United Kingdom. The hon. Member for Donegal had introduced the question of the 17s. 6d. limit. It was asked why did they not abolish the 17s. 6d. limit as in the English Bill? There were several answers to that. The first was that there had been absolutely no claim or wish generally expressed on the part of the people of Scotland that the 17s. 6d. limit should be taken away for this very good reason, that its withdrawal would not be an unmixed blessing. It would undoubtedly lead to a great extent to farming in schools. People would simply give a school to a teacher and say, "Here is the school, earn what you can out of the Government." Another answer was, that as a matter of fact, the 17s. 6d. limit, although in terms a 17s. 6d. limit, was not really that in Scotland. It was in the first place a 19s. 6d. limit, because as the fee grant had been paid in Scotland at the rate of 12s. a head, instead of 10s., and inasmuch as, according to the Act of Parliament, the fee grant, although paid from Imperial sources counted as local, it was quite obvious that the limit, so far as Scotland was concerned, was really a 19s. 6d. limit. That was not all. There was a sum of £60,000 given under one of the Educational Local Taxation Acts for secondary education in Scotland. That grant was administered through the medium of the Board Schools, and to the extent that it was paid, it also counted upon the question of the 17s. 6d. limit. Taking those three facts together, the Government had not thought it necessary to abolish the 17s. 6d. limit in this Bill. He came next to the question of the justification of the 3s. The hon. Member who raised it still seemed to be under the impression that Scotland was being unjustly treated in comparison with England, which got a 5s. grant. The origin of the free education in Scotland was the devoting to free education of the sum of money which was equivalent to the purely local subvention given in favour of the relief of rates in England, and the calculations which were originally made upon the money so provided, allowed of a payment of 12s. per head. In 1892, when in the intervening time free education had been granted to England at the rate of 10s. per head, Parliament thought fit to make an exchange between the two moneys, that was to say, it took away the old sum which, being put into the Local Taxation Account, was given out to pay the capitation grant of 12s. for educational purposes, and replaced it by a direct education grant, which was now calculated in precisely the same way as the English grant, namely, at 10s. per head. As a matter of fact, the proceeds of the original grant had been so exuberant that they had sufficient savings to make up the 12s. since 1892, although they were only getting 10s. from the direct Parliamentary grant, but during those years they had spent their savings; and accordingly by this year, if they had gone on with a further promise from the Chancellor of the Exchequer, they would only have been able to pay exactly 10s. per head; but the Chancellor of the Exchequer said that as they had been conducting their system in Scotland on the scale of 12s., he would make up this 2s. out of the Imperial Treasury. It therefore seemed only just that when they were giving this help to the Voluntary Schools they should take this contribution from the Exchequer of 2s. into account, and make the grant 3s. instead of 5s. ("Hear, hear!") The hon. Member for Donegal (Mr. A. O'Connor) mentioned the question of the exemption of Voluntary Schools from rates, and said there had been a merciful discretion under which the local bodies had hitherto in many cases exempted these institutions from rates. The fee grant was paid equally to all Voluntary and Board Schools, and accordingly they had this fact, that out of the Imperial Treasury there was paid over and above the general capitation grant of 10s. this extra 2s. under the promise of his right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer. He agreed with the hon.

Member for Donegal when he said that the rating authorities had exercised a merciful discretion in the matter of the exemption of school buildings from rates, because they were doing what they had no right to do under the law. All he could say with regard to that matter was that the Government had no wish to introduce any Parliamentary contest, and so far as he could see nobody objected to that being done, and if the hon. Member would put down an Amendment on the Committee stage in the terms of the provision in the English Bill he could promise him favourable consideration for it. ["Hear, hear!"] He had now, he thought, gone through the various points that had been raised, and he submitted that Scotland was not being defrauded in this matter, seeing that the topic of secondary education did not directly arise upon the Bill. ["Hear, hear!"]

*Mr. A. D. PROVAND (Glasgow, Blackfriars) said that the whole speech of the right hon. Gentleman had been directed to satisfying the Scotch Members that the grant they were entitled to as corresponding to that given to England had been paid. The right hon. Gentleman had drawn a distinction between corresponding and equivalent, but he could not follow him over a great deal of his ground. The right hon. Gentleman had referred to many Acts and regulations, and the question was so complex and involved that he had to ask the Government to call upon the Treasury to prepare a statement for the House to show how matters stood. In dealing with the amount voted to England and Wales under the Act of last year, the right hon. Gentleman omitted two amounts which went to those two countries indirectly under the Act. The right hon. Gentleman told the House that the amount given under the Voluntary Schools Act was £617,000, and under the Necessitous Schools Act, £116,000, making altogether £733,000, which came out of the taxes; but the right hon. Gentleman did not say that England and Wales also received a sum estimated at £40,000 by the abolition of the 17s. 6d. limit, and that they would also receive a sum estimated at £100,000 through the exemption of school buildings from rates. He presumed that in Scotland they would get relief from the rates, but they would not get the relief given to England and Wales by the abolition of the 17s. 6d. limit. The right hon. Gentleman said that the Board Schools in Scotland were denominational; technically this might be true, but they were certainly not so in the sense that the Episcopal or Catholic Schools were in Scotland, or the Voluntary Schools in England. It was impossible, in his opinion, to say that because they used the Scottish Catechism, the Board Schools in Scotland were denominational. In the first place, there was no ecclesiastical control. It was only as a member of a School Board that a clergyman could have anything to do with their management, whereas Voluntary Schools in England were entirely under ecclesiastical control. He did not know how the Lord Advocate was going to defend the non-application of the principle of an equivalent grant in this case. The right hon. Gentleman had spoken of the amounts given to Scotland for other purposes, but in many cases to be furnished by the Treasury. Scotland got nothing like an equivalent grant, and a statement such as he had asked for would show that the grants given to England were much larger than the proportion of 80 to 11. Speaking some time ago, the present First Lord of the Admiralty said,—

> "The equivalent grant was originally conceded in order to save Ireland and Scotland from a disadvantage under which they would otherwise have lain. The ratio of these contributions has proved on the whole to be singularly fair. From that time forth Ireland and Scotland have always been indemnified when any particular relief has been given to England."

In this case particular relief had been given to England, and the Scotch Members now asked that Scotland should receive equivalent relief. He did not understand from the right hon. Gentleman's speech that they got it under this Bill. ["Hear, hear!"]

Dr. CLARK (Caithness) said the Lord Advocate had indicated that the object of the present Government was to secure uniformity. To attain uniformity in education between England, Scotland, and Ireland would occupy the rest of the time of the present Parliament. They were three distinct systems in England, Scotland, and Ireland. There was no uniformity now, and in this Bill the Government were not giving anything in the shape of uniformity. The right hon. Gentleman had claimed that Scotland was getting an equivalent, but the old system was being carried out, if not in the letter, in the spirit. When the former Unionist Government brought in their Bill to create County Councils in England they determined that for the financing of these new bodies a certain proportion should come from personal property and there was handed over to them one half of the probate duty and a portion of the licence duty, and that was to be allocated in the principle of nationality. England was to keep her share, Scotland her share, and Ireland her share, and the grants which Parliament had been in the habit of voting annually were to be taken away. England used her share of the money for the purpose of reducing local rates. But Scotland used her share for abolishing school fees. Thus, when the English Bill making elementary education free was brought in, Scotland already had free education, which she paid for herself. Scotchmen thereupon asked for an equivalent grant, and the result was that 11-80ths of the amounts set aside for primary education in England was handed over to the Scotch Office. That was done under the Act of 1892. Under that Act Scotland got hold of her own Probate Duty, and gave 12s. a head out of it to various schools. Scotland got a sum of £265,000, and £30,000 out of that sum went to university education, and £60,000 to secondary education. When he first entered that House sums were voted every year for the Scotch universities, the old Scotch Estimates having been taken over at the time of the Union. The charges for the Scotch universities remained in the Estimates until 1888. That the money should be voted by the Imperial Parliament was a bargain, and that bargain was honourably adhered to until nine years ago, when a Unionist Government deliberately refused to support the Scotch universities, and the result was, that out of her own money Scotland had to provide £30,000 for the support of university education. England, therefore, had repudiated her obligations in a most dishonourable manner. Parliament had given colleges and universities and endowments to Ireland; it had done the same thing for Wales, and it was giving £25,000 a year to English colleges, so that the burden of English, Welsh, and Irish colleges was borne by Parliament of its own free will, whilst it had repudiated dishonourably the burden of supporting the Scotch universities. In England a Royal College of Science had been established, and Ireland was to be similarly benefited; but Scotland was to be left out in the cold. English boys were thus to be given special advantages over Scotch lads. In regard to the sum of £265,000 which Scotland ought to receive under the Act of 1892, he wished to know how it was that the sum of 12s. a head to schools was no longer to come out of it. Had the Probate Duty in Scotland dropped, or had the number of school children greatly increased? He was of opinion that there had been a "deal" between the Treasury and the Scotch Office. It was most amusing to hear why the 17s. 6d. limit should not be abolished in Scotland. It was said that probably the Voluntary Schools might make a deal with the teachers, and that the teachers would farm their schools. What evidence was there of this? If that was likely to be the case in Scotland why should it not be the case in England? Why were the Government so anxious to protect Scotland? He should like to hear the reason for the course which was being taken. As far as he saw, the only reason was that the Government were defrauding Scotland of £7,300 a year. That was the only policy of the Treasury in educational matters—to do what they could to defraud Scotland. The Scottish people were in this position—a poor country believing in education in the past, having spent their money in every Department of education, were not getting anything like a fair equivalent of what the English were receiving. He supported the rejection of the Bill.

SIR HENRY CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs) said it was a significant fact that of the Scottish Members who had taken part in this discussion not one, except the Lord Advocate, had expressed any very cordial approbation of the Bill. Two hon. Gentlemen on the other side of the House had treated this as a mere instalment of what was due to Scotland, and they looked forward with a simple-minded faith which he admired, to another year when something very great was going to be done for secondary education in Scotland. But the Lord Advocate appeared to be chiefly anxious to prove—he could not say that he had succeeded—that Scotland received quite enough for education at present as compared with England—in fact, rather more than her proper share. He did not think that the right hon. and learned Gentleman would persuade the Scottish people of the correctness of this contention. One fact ought to be borne in mind, namely, the immense sacrifices which the Scottish people had made, without grumbling, for 25 years in the payment of school rates. [*Cheers.*] In many parts of England, no doubt, heavy rates had been incurred for the same purpose, but in Scotland the rates were universal. That fact ought to go somehow into the account. In England, on the other hand, there had been complaints against the heavy burden of rates and subscriptions, but even from the Voluntary Schools in Scotland he had not heard any loud complaints of their uncomfortable financial position. For his own part he disassociated himself from any of those who might deny the right of the Voluntary Schools in Scotland to any assistance if they could make out a good case for it. When they spoke of Voluntary Schools in Scotland they meant Roman Catholic schools, and if they suffered in any way he was sure that those who did not belong to that communion and who even disapproved of the character and management of the schools would not grudge them any relief which might be thought necessary. But the right hon. Gentleman entered upon that subject which was becoming an almost inextricable maze—the subject of equivalent grants. The way in which this question was treated now was that when a fixed equivalent grant meant less than a calculation of the absolute necessities of the case in the individual country then the Government were in favour of equivalent grants; but when an equivalent grant was more than some sum which might be supposed to represent the necessities of the country then there were objections raised to equivalent grants, and the matter was settled on the ground of necessity. [*Cheers.*] He thought it was time, as the right hon. Gentleman and his colleagues introduced the system of equivalent grants, to invite the House of Commons to make up their minds one way or the other. As to the 17s. 6d. limit, he did not think a sufficient reason had been given for neglecting to repeal that limit in Scotland when it was abolished in England and Wales. When the English Bill was under consideration there was a provision in it to abolish that limit, and an hon. Member moved that it should be postponed. The First Lord of the Treasury on that occasion said that the 17s. 6d. limit was open to a great many objections; it was a great temptation to the manipulation of accounts, and fined poor but efficient schools in a manner highly detrimental to the interests of education. Therefore, the right hon. Gentleman added, he could not defer even for a month. ["Hear, hear!"] The abolition of the 17s. 6d. limit must not be deferred even for a month. The right hon. Gentleman would not be able to sleep in his bed—[*laughter*]—if he thought this provision was still in operation in England and Wales. Yet they had introduced what professed to be a corresponding Measure in Scotland, and left this iniquitous and obnoxious 17s. 6d. limit in all its deformity. [*Cheers.*] This was hardly the time for asking questions on the details of the Bill. But there was one which would have to be answered later on. Clause 2 said that for the purposes of Section 19 of the Elementary Education Act, 1876, in so far as it related to Scotland, the aid grant paid to Voluntary Schools should be deemed to be income derived from other sources than the Parliamentary grant. So that it would go towards the 17s. 6d. limit. But if that was to be the case in the Voluntary School, why not in the Board School? ["Hear, hear!"] Neither he nor any of his hon. Friends could at all understand why the distinction should be made. The truth was that they were dealing with a country which had a totally different system of education from that of England, and which had not only a totally different system, but different conditions, ideas, and conceptions on the subject of education altogether. The right hon. Gentleman became exceedingly warm when he spoke of the part John Knox had played; but whether it was due to John Knox or any other person, the Scotch people had for generations taken a different view of the subject from the English people at large. They had regarded education as almost a necessity of life, and had never feared or grudged it. Therefore they were ahead of England in this matter—a fact that was too apt to be lost sight of in debates and legislation. They were told that the grants given in England were for primary education; therefore all the money available for Scotland must be confined to primary education, and secondary education was to be relegated to the distant future. But in Scotland primary education was done with. They were at the secondary education stage. Therefore the analogous provision for Scotland would be a provision for improving and completing secondary education. Yet they were made to give this money where it was really, in one sense, not wanted—at any rate, not urgently wanted—while they received nothing for purposes of secondary and technical education, which all who took any interest in Scotch education knew would be of immense benefit to the whole community. The Scotch primary schools differed from the English also in that they were predominantly Board Schools. "But," said the Lord Advocate—who not only introduced John Knox but the shorter catechism and all sorts of sacred subjects—[*laughter*]—"the Board Schools all the same were denominational schools." No doubt they were in the sense that more or less dogmatic religion after the Presbyterian form was taught. But the Boards who authorised the teaching were elected by the ratepayers, and the schools were in no sense clerical. They were in a totally different position from the Voluntary Schools, whose *raison d'être* was to propagate certain distinctive doctrines. ["Hear, hear!"] But if, on the right hon. Gentleman's own showing, the Board Schools were denominational, why did he differentiate against them? ["Hear, hear!"] He had given the House some of the reasons why he and his friends could not consider the Measure in any sense a satisfactory one. He cordially agreed with the Motion for the rejection of the Bill. It might seem singular and ludicrous to refuse money. But there was no such absurdity in reality. They regarded the sum proposed as very far short of what they were entitled to, and if they were to receive any money at all it was not for these purposes they would have it. A small sum might be given for the relief of certain Voluntary Schools, if they made out a good case for it. But the bulk of the money that went to Scotland ought to go now for secondary education. Some of his Scotch friends on the other side looked with confidence to a future Bill; but what he feared was that it would be moulded not according to the views of Scotch Members, who knew the feelings and wishes of the Scotch people, not according to the requirements of Scotch education, but according to the prejudices and the necessities of England. Their great desire—and he was sure it was shared by the Lord Advocate and by every Scotchman on the Government side of the House—was to maintain Scotland's pre-eminence in education; and it was because this Bill, if not in one sense a backward step, was, at all events, an omission of an opportunity to take a distinctly forward step, that they were compelled to oppose it.

*MR. ALEXANDER WYLIE (Dumbartonshire), who rose amid cries of "Divide!" wished to join in the expressions of dissatisfaction which had proceeded from Scotch Members on both sides of the House on account of no provision having been made by this Bill for Secondary Technical Education. Under the old parochial system Scotland held, as far as elementary education was concerned, a foremost place amongst the countries of Europe. She had been making progress since, but not as much as she should have made; and as far as technical education was concerned she had been passed in the race by Germany. He thought the Government had missed a great opportunity by not incorporating in the Bill a provision for fostering secondary and technical education. Notwithstanding, he was prepared to support the Bill, for this reason, that he believed half a loaf was better than no bread. He believed the provision for Voluntary Schools, and especially for necessitous schools, of which there were many in the Highlands, would do a large amount of good. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for Stirling Burghs had said that they had done with primary education in Scotland. He could not agree with that as long as 10 per cent. of their people were illiterates. The grant to the

Voluntary Schools would greatly assist the reducing of that percentage. The Voluntary Schools were divided into two classes—Episcopalian and Roman Catholic; the Episcopalian educating 2 per cent. and the Roman Catholic 8 per cent. of the children. A large proportion of the Roman Catholics were Irish. The constituency he represented had received a larger influx of Irishmen than any other in the United Kingdom; and having had a great deal of experience of the operation of the Education Act in connection with Irish children, he knew that it had been most beneficial. Twenty-five years ago Irish children were the most illiterate and uneducated part of the Scotch population. Now they came very close up alongside their Scotch neighbours, and were making continuous and rapid progress. He agreed with the hon. Member for Glasgow University that the provisions of the Bill were inadequate; but he looked forward with hope, in spite of what the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Stirling Burghs had said, to the Government before long making proper provision for secondary and technical education.

Sir ROBERT REID (Dumfries Burghs) thought the Bill was right in one sense in giving money to the denominational schools, which, to his knowledge, greatly needed it in some places. But, while it was just that the Scotch Voluntary Schools should receive some assistance, it was most unjust that they did not receive the same assistance as the English. It was all very well for the Lord Advocate to point to some figure of 2s., which he had handled very skilfully; but the fact remained that, under the English Bill of this year the English denominational schools would get 5s. more than they had got hitherto, under the Scotch Bill the Scotch denominational schools would only get 3s. more.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said the effect of the promise he had made was that the Scotch Voluntary Schools would get as much as the English.

Sir R. REID said he coupled with the 3s. grant in the Bill the promise of the Chancellor of the Exchequer of the 2s. The fact, however, remained that that 2s. had hitherto been received by the denominational schools in Scotland. The difference, therefore, between this and the English Bill was that the denominational schools in England were better off by 5s. and the denominational schools in Scotland by 3s. per head and no more. That was not fair play. [" Hear, hear!"] Taking the whole sum together given to all classes under the Bill the Government gave, according to the Lord Advocate's own contention, £80,000 instead of £110,000, which was the equivalent grant. That could not be fair. [" Hear, hear!"] It was no use going back to former grants and comparing them. If they went back at all let them go back to the whole comparison of the receipts and expenditure in Scotland. [" Hear, hear!"] The whole of that subject, he thought, was reserved for consideration in order to ascertain the truth of the entire question, and they had no right to select a small piece out of the whole and manufacture that into an argument in support of the present Bill. [" Hear, hear!'] He hoped Scotland would resent the use of a large English majority against a small number of Scotch Members to impose upon her what was not fair and could not be justified. [" Hear, hear!"] He would have preferred that the policy they held on this matter should have been embodied in an Amendment, as there were inconveniences and possible misunderstandings in voting against the Second Reading of the Bill itself. But, inasmuch as there were no other means left to him—it was not quite fair to leave no other means—of expressing the resentment that he thought he was entitled to feel at the disparaging treatment as between England and Scotland in this matter, he should vote with his hon. Friend the Member for Hawick Burghs. [" Hear, hear!"]

Question put, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

The House divided:—Ayes, 159; Noes, 52.—(Division List, No. 262.)

Main Question put, and agreed to.

Bill Read a Second time, and committed for Monday next.

CONGESTED DISTRICTS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

[Progress 29th June.]

Considered in Committee.

[The Chairman of Ways and Means, Mr. J. W. Lowther in the Chair.]

Clause 4,—

APPLICATION OF MONEYS AT THE DISPOSAL OF THE COMMISSIONERS.

(1.) In applying the Congested Districts (Scotland) Fund the Commissioners may take such steps as they think proper for—

(*a*) aiding and developing agriculture, and the breeding of live stock and poultry in congested districts; and

(*b*) providing suitable seed potatoes and seed oats and implements for crofters and cottars in congested districts; and

(*c*) providing, subject to the provisions herein-after contained, land for sub-division among or for enlargement of the holdings of crofters and cottars in congested districts for the purposes of cultivation or grazing, in such manner and upon such conditions and after such adaptations as shall be determined by the Commissioners; and

(*d*) aiding migration of crofters and cottars from congested districts to other districts, and settling any migrants under favourable circumstances in the places to which they first migrate; and

(*e*) aiding and developing fishing (including industries connected with and subservient to fishing) and the formation of fishermen's dwellings and holdings in congested districts; and

(*f*) aiding the providing or improving of piers or boat-slips, public roads and bridges, and footpaths and foot-bridges, in congested districts; and

(*g*) aiding and developing spinning, weaving, and other home industries in congested districts; and

(*h*) subject to the consent of the Treasury,—

aiding the providing or improving of harbours.

(2.) The Commissioners may give their assistance either by way of gift or loan, or by way of sale at cost price, and subject to such conditions as they think fit, which conditions and the provisions for their enforcement or for the case of their violation shall be as effectual as if they were contained in this Act."

Mr. CALDWELL (Lanark Mid) moved to add at the end of Sub-section (2):—

"Any person nominated by the Commissioners may, at all reasonable times, and after due notice to the occupier, enter any land occupied by an occupier to whom seed or implements, utensils or machinery, or appliances have been sold or gifted, in order to ascertain whether such seed has been properly sown, or that a proper use is being made of such implements, utensils, machinery, or appliances."

Mr. JOHN McLEOD (Sutherlandshire) thought that when seed or appliances had been bought and paid for they should not be inspected by any official.

Mr. CALDWELL said there were similar powers in the Congested Districts (Ireland) Act. These things were to be sold at less than cost price, and that being so he thought the Commissioners should have power to see that they were being properly used.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause, as Amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Mr. McLEOD said more notice should have been given of the proposed addition. He objected to the clause being passed in its present form, and submitted that the Bill would be better as originally drafted. He hoped the Lord Advocate would consider the Motion between now and the Report stage.

The LORD ADVOCATE said that when the Bill was last before the House ample intimation appeared on the Paper as to what was to be done. As the hon. Member for Lanark had said, it was merely proposed to give the Commissioners the same powers that had been given to the Congested Districts Board in Ireland. When articles were gifted or sold at less than cost price, he thought power should be given to see that they were being properly used.

Mr. McLEOD maintained that nothing was said about things being sold at less than cost price.

Clause, as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 5,—

ACQUISITION, ADAPTATION, AND DISPOSAL OF LAND. SMALL HOLDINGS ACT, 1892.

(1.) For the purpose of the purchase of land by the Commissioners (who are hereby authorised to purchase and hold land and dispose thereof as in this Act provided) the Lands Clauses Acts shall be incorporated with this Act, except the provisions of those Acts with respect to the purchase and taking of land otherwise than by agreement; and the provisions of Sub-section four of Section three of the Allotments (Scotland) Act 1892 with respect to the settlement of disputed compensation for land shall apply, with the necessary modifications, as if the Commissioners were therein referred to.

(2.) Any limited owner may sell land to the Commissioners for the purposes of those Acts at such a price, or for such consideration, as, having regard to those purposes and to all the circumstances of the case, is the best that can be reasonably obtained.

(3.) The Commissioners may, if they think fit, before disposing of land for the purposes of this Act, adapt the same by dividing and fencing it, making occupation roads, and executing any other works, such as works for the provision of drainage or water supply, which can, in the opinion of the Commissioners, be more economically and efficiently executed for the land as a whole.

(4.) The Commissioners may also, if they think fit, adapt the land for the purposes of this Act by erecting thereon such buildings, or making such adaptations of existing buildings, as, in their opinion, are required for the due occupation of the land, and cannot be made by the crofters or cottars or fishermen.

(5.) Where any right of grazing or other similar right is attached to land acquired by the Commissioners for the purposes of this Act, the Commissioners may attach any share of the right to any holding in such manner and subject to such regulations as they think proper.

MR. CALDWELL moved, in Sub-section (1), to leave out from the word "agreement," to the end of the sub-section, and to insert:—

(2) If the Commissioners are satisfied that suitable land for the purposes of this Act cannot be acquired on reasonable terms by voluntary agreement, and that the circumstances are such as to make it proper that the Commissioners should proceed under this section, they shall publish, once at least, in each of two consecutive weeks in some newspaper circulating in the locality, an advertisement stating shortly the purpose for which the land is proposed to be taken, mentioning a place at which a plan of the proposed works (if any) may be seen at reasonable hours, and stating the quantity of land that is required. Thereafter they shall cause public inquiry to be made in the parish or district and notice to be given both publicly in the parish or district, and severally to the owners, lessees, and occupiers of the land proposed to be taken either by delivery at, or by post in a registered letter addressed to the usual or last known place of abode of such owners, lessees, and occupiers, and all persons whose interests would be affected shall be permitted to attend at the inquiry, and to support or oppose the taking of the land.

(3) After the completion of the inquiry, and after considering all objections made by any persons whose interests would be affected, the Commissioners may make an order for putting in force, with respect to the said land or any part thereof, the provisions of the Lands Clauses Acts with respect to the purchase and taking of land otherwise than by agreement.

(4) A copy of any Order made under this Section shall be served by the Commissioners in the manner in which and upon the person or persons upon whom notices in respect of such land are hereinbefore required to be served, together with a statement that the Order will become final and have the effect of an Act of Parliament unless within the period of one month after such service a memorial by some person whose interests would be affected is presented to the Local Government Board for Scotland (in this Act referred to as "the Board"), praying that the Order shall not become law without further inquiry.

(5) The Order shall be deposited with the Board, who shall inquire whether the provisions of this section have been in all respects complied with; and, if the Board are satisfied that this has been done, then, after the expiration of the said period of one month—

(*a*) if no memorial has been presented, or if every such memorial has been withdrawn, the Board shall without further inquiry confirm the Order;

(*b*) if a memorial has been presented the Board shall proceed to hold a local public inquiry, and shall after such inquiry either confirm, with or without amendment, or disallow the Order;

(*c*) upon any such confirmation the Order, and if amended as so amended, shall become final, and have the effect of an Act of Parliament, and the confirmation by the Board shall be conclusive evidence that the Order has been duly made and is within the powers conferred by this Act, and that the requirements of this Act have been complied with;

Provided always that the Board may, and when required within the said period of one month by any party interested who has presented a memorial against the Order shall, state a special case on the question whether the proposed Order is within the powers conferred by this Act for the opinion of either division of the Court of Session, who are hereby authorised finally to determine the same along with any question of expenses.

(6) Where the Board are authorised or required to make any inquiry under this section, they may cause such inquiry to be made by any inspector or officer of the Board or by any other person specially nominated in writing by the Board, and such inspector or officer or person shall be entitled to summon witnesses and examine them on oath, and to call for the production of books, documents, and accounts. The costs incurred in relation to such inquiry, including the remuneration of any person specially nominated to hold the same, not exceeding three guineas a day, shall be paid by the Commissioners out of the sums by this Act placed at their disposal, and the Board may certify the amount of the costs incurred, and any sum so certified shall be a debt to the Board from the Commissioners.

(7) Any Order made under this section for the purpose of the purchase of land otherwise than by agreement, shall incorporate the

Lands Clauses Acts and section six and sections seventy to seventy-eight (both inclusive) of the Railways Clauses Consolidation (Scotland) Act 1845, with the necessary adaptations. Provided that—

(*a*) any question of disputed compensation shall be referred to the arbitration of a sole arbiter appointed by the parties, or if the parties do not concur in the appointment of a sole arbiter then, on the application of either of them, by the Board, and the remuneration to be paid to the arbiter appointed by the Board shall be fixed by the Board. An arbiter appointed under this sub-section shall be deemed to be an arbiter within the meaning of the Lands Clauses Acts, and the provisions of these Acts with respect to an arbitration shall apply accordingly; and the arbitor shall, notwithstanding anything in the said Acts, determine the amount of the expenses in the arbitration, and such determination shall be final; and

(*b*) in determining the amount of disputed compensation, the arbiter shall not make any allowance in respect of the purchase being compulsory;

(*c*) the Commissioners and their successors shall make and shall jointly with the proprietor maintain sufficient fences for separating the land taken from the lands not taken;

(*d*) in construing for the purposes of this section any section or Acts incorporated with or put in force under this section, this Act, together with any Order under this section, shall be deemed to be the special Act.

(8.) At any inquiry or arbitration under this section the person or persons holding the inquiry or arbitration shall hear any authorities or parties whose interests would be affected, by themselves or their agents, and may hear witnesses, but shall not, except with consent of the Board, hear counsel or expert witnesses.

(9) A person holding a public inquiry for the purposes of this section on behalf of the Commissioners shall have the same powers as, and may receive remuneration not exceeding that payable to, a person specially nominated by the Board to hold such an inquiry under this section.

(10.) The Commissioners or Board, as the case may be, shall not make any order for purchasing the whole or any part of any park, garden, pleasure ground, or other land required for the amenity or convenience of any dwelling house, or any land the property of any railway company or canal company which is or may be required for the purposes of that undertaking, or any land which in the opinion of the Commissioners or Board is being held and may be required for the extension of a factory or public work.

(11) The Commissioners or Board, as the case may be, shall in making an order for purchasing land have regard to the extent of land held in the neighbourhood by any owner, and to the convenience of other property belonging to the same owner, and shall, so far as is practicable, avoid taking an undue or inconvenient quantity of land from any one owner.

(12) Any land acquired under this section shall be vested in the Commissioners.

The hon. Member said that while £35,000 was to be given from public moneys for the improvement of congested districts, there was no power within the four corners of the Bill enabling the Commissioners to acquire land compulsorily. Without such power it would be impossible to carry out the Bill satisfactorily. The object of the addition to the clause was to confer on the Commissioners in the congested districts Board power to acquire land compulsorily, just as power to acquire land compulsorily had been given to local authorities under the Parish Councils Act of 1894, and to the Board of Trade under the Light Railways Act. The Commissioners upon whom he proposed that these powers should be conferred were official persons—the Secretary for Scotland, his Assistant Secretary, the Chairman of the Fisheries Board, and of the Local Government Board; the other two members to be nominated by the Secretary for Scotland—and they would be absolutely impartial and independent without local interests or prejudices, and surely if any body should have compulsory powers of purchase, it was such a body as that. Compulsory powers had been given in the Burgh Police (Scotland) Act of 1892, the Parish Councils Act of 1894, and the Light Railways Act of last year, and such powers were equally necessary in the present Bill. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would consider the matter. The reason why such powers were given in the Light Railways Act was because these railways were looked upon as necessary, but, he would point out, the whole scope of this Bill was necessity. He hoped the Government would not stultify their Bill by refusing such an Amendment. He had no doubt that in 99 cases out of a hundred the landlord would give the land on reasonable terms, but they might have one or two cantankerous landlords as they had now. He hoped the Chancellor of the Exchequer would approve of a policy of this kind, and that even if the Amendment was not accepted the matter would be carefully considered before the Report stage.

THE LORD ADVOCATE said he could scarcely accept the Amendment. The

Bill was a tentative one. There was a great deal of land available in the Highlands, and they did not anticipate that so far as the actual letting of land was concerned there would be any difficulty, even although there were no compulsory powers in the Bill. He could not accept the analogy of the other Acts which had been mentioned by the hon. Member. There were provisions for the compulsory taking of land in the Parish Councils Act and in the Light Railways Act, but in those cases the purpose was strictly local, and the land was taken for the purpose of an undertaking which ex hypothesi would benefit the locality to a certain extent. Of course, the position under this Bill was different. To take people from a congested district in one part of Scotland might, of course, benefit the locality from which they were taken, and might be necessary from an Imperial point of view as an act of policy, but it could not be said to be necessarily advantageous to the locality to which they were removed. To his mind that was the great distinction between this Measure and the Acts which had been named. They thought the scheme should be given a chance to work without compulsory powers, and then, if it was found to be really hampered by the want of such powers, it would always be possible to come to Parliament and get them.

Mr. HEDDERWICK regretted that the Lord Advocate should have taken up such a position. The object of the Bill was to relieve congestion, but the cause of that congestion was the want of land. The Deer Forest Commission showed that there were something like two million acres of land available. As the Government themselves were appointing this Commission, and the Chief Commissioner was to be the Secretary for Scotland, it seemed to him that the Lord Advocate was unnecessarily apprehensive with regard to the powers which they desired.

Mr. MUNRO FERGUSON (Leith Burghs) agreed with the Lord Advocate that this Measure should be considered as tentative, and he was sure there was every desire on both sides to make it a success, but he could not but think that compulsory powers were necessary in order to make it a success. He was, however, in favour of full compensation. He believed they might entrust the local authorities with full powers, and if that might be done with local authorities how much more might it not be done with a strong Commission of the kind proposed to supervise the work. He did not think there was so great an area available for small holdings in the Highlands as was very often supposed, but there were certainly some cases where lands which were capable of supporting a population were lying idle, and in such cases certainly this compulsory power was essential. There were cases where at fishing stations they found land suitable for small crofts, and where the landlords would not give the land except under compulsory powers. It was in such exceptional cases that powers should be given to acquire land. If those powers were not given, he was afraid there was a bad prospect of carrying to success those necessary reforms in the Highlands.

Dr. CLARK (Caithness) looked upon the Bill as a fair and honest attempt to solve the congested districts question, but regretted the decision of the Government not to accept this Amendment. In the present temper of the Mathieson family, they would not be able to get the necessary land in the island of Lewis without compulsory powers. He hoped that Mr. Mathieson might change his mind, but he feared that compulsion would be found necessary. It might also be anticipated that compulsory powers would be necessary in the case of Sir John Orde and Long Island. He believed nine-tenths of the landlords would associate with the authorities in giving the experiment a fair trial, and only a miserable minority of landlords would refuse to give land, and the compulsory powers were necessary to compel this minority to do their duty.

*Mr. McLEOD did not think he would be doing his duty to his constituents unless he protested against the statement that no case had been made out for the compulsory acquisition of land in the Highlands. An unanswerable case had been made out for giving those powers; and he did not see why they should make any difficulty in the matter when there were so many safeguards which they could apply in giving the power to acquire. When the Crofters' Act was before the House, the same argument against compulsory powers was used by the party who now sat on the Treasury Bench. It was said that there was no necessity for increasing the compulsory powers under that Act, because the landlords, seeing the temper of the House, would give the land willingly on reasonable terms. Experience had shown how groundless was that anticipation. The Crofters' Commission stated in a special Report that the reason more land had not been distributed among the people under the Act was that they could not get the landlords to move. The new landlord who had been installed in Lewis had already categorially declared that he had no land for the people, and that he would give them no land. That was an illustration of the temper of the landlords of the Highlands. He declared that so far as the chief provision of the Bill was concerned—the provision for distributing more land among the people—the Bill would practically be a dead letter when it became law.

CAPTAIN JOHN SINCLAIR (Forfar) still hoped the Government would accept the Amendment. They must remember that the working of the Act would be in the responsible hand of the Secretary for Scotland. Surely he was an authority that could be trusted. Everyone desired to see the Bill a success, and there was no doubt that compulsory powers to take land would greatly contribute to that end.

SIR LEONARD LYELL (Orkney and Shetland) regretted that the Lord Advocate had not accepted the substance of the Amendment. In the absence of compulsory powers, the price of the land which it was desirable to acquire would be raised exorbitantly.

Question put, "That the words 'and the provisions of,' stand part of the clause."—The Committee divided:—Ayes, 131; Noes, 35.—(Division List, No. 263.)

On the return of the CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS, after the usual interval,

DR. CLARK moved in Sub-section (1) to leave out "Sub-section four, of Section three, of the Allotments (Scotland) Act, 1892," and to insert "Section twenty-five of the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1894." He pointed out that they were adopting the procedure of the Allotments Act, 1892, instead of that of the Local Government Act, 1894, and that they were only adopting one of the five sub-sections of that Act. Sub-section 2, it seemed to him, was just as important for the purposes of this Bill as Sub-section 4. He would like to know why the Government were limiting themselves to this one sub-section, and why they were not having the whole of the four sub-sections, and taking the whole machinery of the Allotments Act. His Amendment was to adopt the Local Government Act as against the Allotments Act; but if they adopted Sub-section 2, Sub-section 3, and Sub-section 5 of the Allotments Act, then they would have the complete machinery.

THE LORD ADVOCATE said that this special Sub-section was picked out simply in accordance with the policy they discussed on the last Amendment—whether or not they should have compulsory powers. Sub-section 1 of Section 3 of the Allotments Act was already expressed in the same words in the beginning of Section 5 of this Bill. Sub-section 2 was the sub-section which dealt with compulsory purchase and not with voluntary purchase; Sub-section 4, which they did take, was appropriate to voluntary purchase, and the alteration it made upon the provisions of the Lands Clauses Act, 1845, which would otherwise be operative, was that it gave, practically, a single arbiter, instead of two arbiters, and provided a less expensive and easier tribunal. The reason they did not take the Act which was suggested by the hon. Member in his Amendment, was because that was a Code which was appropriate to compulsory purchase. They were going not upon compulsory purchase, but purchase by agreement.

DR. CLARK said he had been misled by the words that any question of compensation should be referred to a sole arbiter. Of course if they had, practically, optional powers, no question of compensation could arise. It seemed to him the phraseology they were adopting was based upon compulsion, and that was why he asked the question as to Sub-section 2. He did not see how the phraseology here could apply to any willing buyer or willing seller.

THE LORD ADVOCATE said that under the Lands Clauses Act an owner could agree to sell his land. It was purchased by agreement, although they did not agree upon a price. Compulsory taking was where they could take the land, whether the owner wished it to be taken or not. Purchase by agreement did not necessarily imply that they had settled upon a price. It was perfectly possible to say "I will allow you to take my land, but we have to fix a price yet, and it shall be fixed by an arbiter." He thought that was the origin of the words "disputed compensation" being included.

MR. CALDWELL said the proviso here that the question of disputed compensation should be referred to an arbiter to be appointed by the Secretary for Scotland, was very appropriate in an Act where there were compulsory powers. But they took out a section of the Act which was passed for compulsory powers, and then said that in a case where there was no compulsory powers whatever, but where a man was to be free to make any agreement he pleased, it should also apply. It occurred to him that this was quite unnecessary, because it really applied to a case of compulsory purchase, but had no application to a Bill, which was restricted entirely to voluntary purchase. It seemed strange to put in an odd clause which had no relation to voluntary purchase.

THE LORD ADVOCATE pointed out that Sub-section (2) allowed the limited owner to sell at such a price as having regard to the purposes of the Act could best be obtained. This went further than the Lands Clauses Act. The justification for the phraseology of the Bill in this respect was that it was the phraseology of the Lands Clauses Act.

MR. CALDWELL said that under the Allotments Act the Secretary for Scotland appointed the sole arbiter. Under Section 25 of the 1894 Act it was more a Departmental matter. In this respect he thought it was much better to adopt the method of the 1894 Act. The other point of difference was that the Local Government Act excluded the 10 per cent., and he would ask the Lord Advocate whether he could amend the Bill in those two particulars.

THE LORD ADVOCATE said he thought it was a small matter whether the arbiter was appointed by the Secretary for Scotland or by the Local Government Board, of which the Secretary for Scotland was the President. As regarded the 10 per cent., he had always thought it was wrong to exclude it from the Parish Councils Act, and he had always voted against it. He could not, therefore, exclude it from the present Bill.

DR. CLARK said he would ask leave to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

THE LORD ADVOCATE moved, in Sub-section (2), to leave out the words "those Acts," and to insert the words "this Act."

Amendment agreed to.

MR. CALDWELL moved, in Sub-section (2), to leave out the words, "the best that can be reasonably detained," and to insert the words,—

"deemed reasonable, and may, with the sanction of the Board of Agriculture, given under this section, convey the land for that purpose either without payment of any purchase money or compensation, or at a price less than the real value, and may so convey it free of all incumbrances. Provided that if the land proposed to be conveyed is subject to incumbrances, the Board of Agriculture before giving their sanction under this section, shall cause notice to be given to the incumbrancers, and shall consider the objections, if any, raised by them."

He thought the Lord Advocate would readily admit that "deemed reasonable" was preferable to "that can be reasonably obtained." The other words of the Amendment were taken from the Light Railways Act. Powers were being given whereby piers, boat slips, and harbours might be erected in certain parts. It was obvious that those works would benefit the owner of the land, and therefore he thought provision should be made whereby the owner should, if he chose, give the land. The same remark applied to footbridges and public roads. He had introduced the word "incumbrances." An estate might be burdened, and the creditors might be scattered over the country. It might be difficult to get their assent, and, indeed, inexpedient to go to the expense of getting it. He was sure the Lord Advocate would admit that to cover a case of that kind there should be a proviso under which land might be given free of incumbrances.

THE LORD ADVOCATE said he was quite ready to accept the words "deemed reasonable" in lieu of the words "that can be reasonably obtained." He could not, however, accept the rest of the Amendment, though he was quite willing to consider it before Report. The clause was borrowed from the Light Railways Act. The assumption of Parliament was that if a light railway were made it would benefit the estate through which it ran, and therefore it was reasonable that a proprietor or limited owner should be able, if he had the sanction of a Government Department, to give land for the purpose of the railway. It was not quite the same here. There might be some cases where the point would apply, but there were others where obviously it would not. Again, it might be found to be a mistake to introduce the Board of Agriculture. ["Hear hear!"]

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. CALDWELL proposed, in Subsection (2), to leave out the words, "as can be reasonably obtained," in order to insert the words, "deemed reasonable."

Amendment agreed to.

MR. CALDWELL moved to insert, in Sub-section (2), after the words last added, the words,—

> "Any crofter in possession of a holding under the Crofters' Holding (Scotland) Act 1886, and Acts extending or amending the same, may sell or transfer his right and interest in and to the same to the Commissioners for such consideration as may be mutually agreed upon, and the Commissioners may sell or transfer such right and interest to an occupier of a neighbouring holding held of the same landlord, or may sell or transfer said right and interest to any other person to be occupied as a separate holding, but subject in all cases to the same terms and conditions upon which the crofter held the same at the date of such sale or transfer, and to such further terms and conditions as the Commissioners may determine. Provided that no existing holding shall be increased by any sale or transfer under this section so that in the opinion of the Commissioners the rateable value will exceed twenty pounds."

The whole object of the Bill was to remove congestion that might be found in certain districts. It was quite obvious that what the Commissioners had to do in order to remove congestion was, if possible, to sweep away many of the existing crofters, and sub-divide the land amongst those who remained, finding possibly new land for those who left. Strangely enough the Bill made no provision for a case of that kind. A crofter might be quite willing to give up his holding to the Commissioners, but the Commissioners, unfortunately, would have no power to take his land, and by means of it increase the adjoining crofts, or put a new man upon the ground. But the landlord might say to the crofter, "if you leave you must renounce the holding." By the Amendment the landlord could in no way be prejudicially affected. The only thing that would happen would be that holdings would be increased, or one tenant substituted for another.

THE LORD ADVOCATE said the Amendment had not been long on the Paper, and therefore he would like its consideration to be deferred until Report. There were certainly two sides to the question. It might be well to add to a holding, but on the other hand it must be remembered that the crofter legislation differed from the Irish legislation. They were not discussing Irish politics at that moment, and he was not inclined to introduce that policy into Scotland. As to free sale, he should resent anything that would alter the tenure of a crofter's holding. The crofter retained his croft as long as he paid his rent. He was fully impressed as to the advantage of having some machinery, and he would consider the matter before the Report.

MR. MUNRO FERGUSON could not agree with the Lord Advocate. He thought that some such proposal as that submitted by his hon. Friend should be considered, and effect given to it.

DR. CLARK said the improvements were invested in the crofter by the Crofters' Act, and this clause permitted the acquisition and disposal of the land. If any change in this direction were made, he should like to go further than his hon. Friend proposed. There was an absolute right to compensation, as the Act vested these improvements in the crofter, but he had no right to remain there longer than the Crofters Commission decided.

THE LORD ADVOCATE said the hon. Member spoke under a wrong impression. Obviously the Commissioners could not be heirs-at-law. He had assured the hon. Member that he would consider the matter.

*MR. J. G. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty) was most anxious that the crofter should not be turned out of his holding. His hon. Friend had lost sight of a large class, the cottars, who really caused the congestion.

MR. CALDWELL asked leave to withdraw the Amendment. He was quite satisfied with what had been said by the Lord Advocate.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. CALDWELL moved in Sub-section (4) to leave out the words, "and cannot be made by the crofters or cottars or fishermen."

THE LORD ADVOCATE thought the words had better be left in than taken out.

*MR. WEIR supported the Amendment.

THE LORD ADVOCATE said he wished to say, in addition to what he had said before, that he was afraid that if these words were taken out, these men would be always asking for buildings when, as a matter of fact, they might be able to put them up themselves.

DR. CLARK said that thought the buildings were erected by the crofter, the landowner usually found the wood; and he would suggest that the words in line 30 should be made to read, "of erecting or assisting in erecting." That would assimilate the new method to the old.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. CALDWELL moved to add the following sub-section:—

(6) The Commissioners may accept any gifts of property, heritable or moveable, for any or all of the purposes for which money is provided by this Act, and apply them according to the directions of the donor, if consistent in their opinion with the purposes on which they apply the said money, and, subject to any such directions, may apply them in like manner as that money.

Dr. Clark.

THE LORD ADVOCATE: I agree to this.

Amendment agreed to; Clause, as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 6,—

SECURITY FOR AND REPAYMENT OF LOAN.

6. Any loan under the provisions of this Act shall be secured by a bond which shall be a charge on the holding in favour of the Commissioners, and shall either be repaid by half-yearly instalments of principal with such interest and within such term (not exceeding a period fixed on by the Treasury) from the date of the loan, as may be agreed on, or shall be repaid with such interest and within such term by a terminable annuity payable by half-yearly instalments. The amount for the time being unpaid may at any time be discharged, and any such terminable annuity may at any time be redeemed in accordance with tables fixed by the Commissioners. A certificate by the Secretary of the Commissioners that the whole of the loan has been repaid, or that such terminable annuity has been redeemed, shall, without any other instrument, operate as a discharge of the said loan and extinction of the said terminable annuity, as the case may be, and the registration of such certificate in the register of Sasines shall be equivalent to the registration of a discharge of the said bond.

THE LORD ADVOCATE said he had an Amendment to move, which was not on the Paper. It was really meant to meet the Amendment which was down on the Paper in the name of the hon. Member for Ross-shire. The point of that Amendment was that, as the Bill stood, it would make a cast-iron regulation that the Commissioners should be obliged to exact repayment the loan by half-yearly payments within the date of the loan. He could not take that Amendment as it stood, because it would make a cast-iron rule the other way. He thought the matter ought to be left to the discretion of the Board. Therefore he proposed to move, in line 1, page 4, to insert after "loan" the words, "or at such dates thereafter, not exceeding 18 months." He took 18 months, because it corresponded to what they were all familiar with in Scotland, namely, a back-handed rent.

*MR. WEIR urged that 18 months was hardly sufficient. He thought two years would be better, and he would be very glad if the right hon. Gentleman could see his way to make that concession.

MR. McLEOD also thought that 18 months was too short a time. He thought they might safely leave it to the discretion of the Commissioners. All those who had been with the crofters in Canada said that two years should be the very shortest time within which the first payment should be made.

Amendment and clause agreed to.

Clause ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 8,—

SUPPLEMENTAL.

(1.) The Commissioners shall submit to the Treasury annually, and at any other time, for any special purpose, in the form fixed by the Treasury, an estimate showing the amount proposed by the Commissioners to be expended, and shall not expend any sums except in accordance with such estimate when approved by the Treasury.

(2.) The Commissioners shall keep such accounts of their receipts and expenditure, and those accounts shall be audited in accordance with such regulations as the Treasury direct, and be laid before Parliament.

MR. CALDWELL moved, in Sub-section (1), after the word "expended," to insert the words, "and the purposes for which the same is proposed to be expended."

Amendment agreed to.

MR. CALDWELL moved, in Sub-section (1), after the word "estimate," to insert the words "and for such purposes."

Amendment agreed to.

Clause, as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 9,—

REPORT TO PARLIAMENT.

The Commissioners shall annually present to Parliament a report of their proceedings during the preceding year.

MR. CALDWELL moved to leave out all the words after "shall," to the end of clause, and to insert the words,

"once in every year make a report to the Local Government Board for Scotland on their proceedings under this Act, and every such report shall be forthwith presented to Parliament."

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 10,—

DEFINITIONS.

In this Act unless the subject or context otherwise requires, the expression "congested district' means any crofting parish or crofting parishes, or any area in a crofting parish or crofting parishes, defined by the Commissioners under this Act, which they shall, having regard to the population and valuation thereof, determine to be a congested district.

The expressions "crofter," "cottar," and "crofting parish" have the meaning assigned to them in the Crofters Holdings (Scotland) Act 1886.

Clause ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 11,—

SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the Congested Districts (Scotland) Act 1897.

Clause ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Bill reported; as amended, to be considered upon Monday next, and to be printed.—[Bill 294.]

POLICE (PROPERTY) BILL.

Read the Third time, and passed.

FOREIGN PRISON-MADE GOODS BILL.

Committee deferred till Monday next.

FINANCE BILL.

As amended, considered.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bristol, W.) moved to insert the following clause:—

PACKAGES OF TOBACCO FOR THE PURPOSE OF DRAWBACK, EXPORTATION, OR REMOVAL.

The cases of packages of tobacco for the purpose of drawback under Section one of the Manufactured Tobacco Act 1863, as amended by Section six of the Finance Act 1896, and the packages of tobacco for the purpose of exportation or removal under Section ninety-five of the Customs Consolidation Act 1876, shall weigh not less than eighty pounds gross weight or such less weight as the Commissioners of Customs may permit; and accordingly—

(*a*) the words "weighing not less than eighty pounds gross weight or such less weight as the Commissioners of Customs may permit" shall be substituted for the words "containing not less than eighty pounds net weight of such tobacco" in Section one of the Manufactured Tobacco Act 1863, instead of the words substituted by Section six of the Finance Act 1896; and

(*b*) the words "(not being less in any case, if the goods be to be exported or to be removed to another warehouse, than is required by law on the importation of such goods)" in Section ninety-five of the Customs Consolidated Act 1876, shall not apply to tobacco; and

(*c*) Section six of the Finance Act 1896, from "and the words 'weighing'" down to "such tobacco" shall be repealed."

Clause Read the First and Second time, and ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Bill to be Read the Third time upon Monday next.

METROPOLITAN WATER COMPANIES BILL.

Committee deferred till Monday next.

POST OFFICE (SITES) [EXPENSES].

Considered in Committee.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER moved:—

"That it is expedient to authorise the payment, out of moneys to be provided by Parliament, of all sums payable by the Postmaster General under any Act of the present Session to enable Her Majesty's Postmaster General to acquire lands for the Public Service, and of all expenses incurred in carrying into effect the provisions of such Act."

MR. CALDWELL moved, "That the Chairman do report Progress, and ask leave to sit again."

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER pointed out that no promise had been given that the Resolution would not be taken.

DR. CLARK suggested that his hon. Friend might withdraw his Motion, as there would be subsequent opportunities for discussing the subject.

Question, "That the Chairman do report Progress, and ask leave to sit again," put, and agreed to.

Committee report Progress; to sit again upon Monday next.

LAW OF EVIDENCE (CRIMINAL CASES) BILL.

Committee deferred till Monday next.

METROPOLITAN AND OTHER POLICE COURTS BILL.

Read a Third time, and passed.

LAND TRANSFER BILL [H.L.].

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Sir RICHARD WEBSTER, Isle of Wight) moved "That the Bill be now read a Second Time." He said that there was a consensus of opinion on both sides of the House that this subject had undergone so much discussion that it was now ripe for legislation. The opposition which had been shown by the legal profession to some of the proposals in previous years had been to a large extent met, and there was this prospect in favour of the Measure which had not existed in respect of earlier Measures—that the legal profession were in favour of the proposals as they came down from the other House. He could not say, however, that there was at present a unanimous feeling in favour of the Bill, because the bankers were not altogether satisfied that their transactions were sufficiently protected. Representatives of the bankers had been in consultation with the promoters of the Bill, and from a communication made to him that evening he believed that they were almost satisfied, and he had no doubt that he would be able to bring forward some clause to meet any objections that remained. The Bill, practically speaking, consisted of four parts. The first part, though not directly connected with land transfer or registration, was still a useful amendment of the law. At present, when real property had to be purchased from the representatives of a deceased person, it was necessary for the purchaser to satisfy himself as to the provisions of the will, and as to whether or not arrangements were made by the deceased with reference to the transfer of property, and whether any interests were to be protected. It was proposed by the Bill to create a real representative—or, in other words, to make the personal representative also the representative of real property, so that he would have the responsibility of selling and conveying to the purchaser any real estate. On him would rest the responsibility of seeing that the purchase money given for the estate was devoted to its proper object and was received by the person entitled to receive it. This representative would also be able to give a good title. The next part of the Bill consisted of Amendments of the Land Transfer Act of 1875. They were designed with the view of establishing a cheaper and better system of registration. The principle which underlay the clause was that the registration of ownership and purchase, and, if necessary of leases, should be cheap, and that the certificate of registration in all transactions should be produced, that it should take the place of the cumbrous title deeds now deposited, and that the registration certificate represented the property which had been registered. It was in this connection that the banking community had felt some slight difficulty about the Bill. It had been represented that a large number of transactions took place in the course of a few hours, and that persons requiring an advance at short notice brought their deeds to the bank. The bankers wished to see these transactions, which were of great importance, carried on with the same speed and with the same facilities as at present. The banking community had requested that there should be an express power inserted in the Bill to the effect that the owners of certificates should have the power to give a charge. They had also asked that certain information kept at the register, and easily verified, should be forthcoming either on the certificate or by reference to the officials enabling the bankers to know what were the previous transactions, the amount of charges, and the amount paid on previous occasions. With regard to the case in which the register was in the same town as the bank which was asked or proposed to make an advance there was not much difficulty, and where the bank did not happen to be in the same town it was proposed to establish ready and cheap means of inquiry, and he believed that in this respect also they should be able to meet the wishes of the banking community. There were also provisions with regard to portions being put upon the register to protect persons who desired to be warned of any transfer or dealing that was going to be made in respect of the property, and there were further provisions for the wiping off the register of incumbrances which had disappeared. These Amendments, speaking of them as a class, were improvements and amendments in the registration and transfer of land itself, and they were of course connected with the cheapening of the process. He thought he might say that, assuming the scale of fees contemplated to be adopted, there should be a saving of perhaps as much as four-fifths of the charges which existed at the present time. [*Cheers.*] With regard to the question of compulsory registration, having regard to the fears of the legal profession, it had been necessary to proceed cautiously, and the scheme in respect of compulsory registration differed from any scheme which had ever assumed the form of an actual proposition before the House. Power was taken under the 18th Clause for Her Majesty by order in Council to define an area or specify a county within which registration of title shall be compulsory, but power was reserved to the County Council to object and possibly to put an end to the system which it was proposed to establish. There was one point which was novel and which he commended heartily to the House, and that was that there was to be a provision for indemnity in the event of a mistake having occurred in the registry and loss having been occasioned. This system of insurance had existed in many of the Colonies. It was proposed that a certain proportion of the fees shall be set aside and also that in the event of the fees being insufficient a fund shall be established, and any deficiency shall be a charge upon the Consolidated Fund, of the United Kingdom.

He commended the Bill because he believed it was likely to be the one successful attempt to reconcile the varying views which had prevailed upon the question. He hoped this Session would see the Bill pass into law, because he was confident that a few years' practice under it would remove many of those fears which had been so freely expressed in years gone by. He asked the House to give a Second Reading to the Bill.

Mr. HALDANE thought not the least satisfactory feature about this Bill was that it was not really a Measure that belonged to one side more than another. It was a Measure in which all were agreed. It was originally introduced in its main features by the late Lord Selborne, then by the present Lord Chancellor in the House of Lords, and reintroduced by Lord Herschell, from whose hands it came down to this House. Latterly the Lord Chancellor appointed a small Departmental Committee, of which he was a member, and they revised the draft with a view to meeting the various practical suggestions of commercial experts, and he believed the Bill was now a most satisfactory Bill alike to landowners, to the legal profession, and to the public.

Mr. BRODIE HOARE (Hampstead) moved "That the Debate be now adjourned." He had no desire to oppose the Second Reading of the Bill, but, representing, as he did, large interests who rightly or wrongly considered themselves affected by the Bill, he hoped the Government would adjourn the Debate to a more "convenient season," when those who desired to discuss it would be there to do so.

*Mr. GEDGE (Walsall) supported the Motion. The Bill introduced important changes in the law which should be discussed before the Bill was read a Second time. People wrongly supposed that solicitors object to the purpose of the Bill. On the contrary, a compulsory system of land registration would make the fortunes of the present generation of lawyers, but they were not so sure of its being beneficial to their clients, and too great care could not be taken in framing its provisions.

Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE (Carnarvon Boroughs) said amendment of the system of land registration was highly necessary. The Bill required very careful consideration, but if the Debate were adjourned the Bill would probably not be passed this Session, and the present time, when the House was in a reasonable frame of mind and there was an absence of Party spirit—[*laughter*]—was a good time to consider it.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL said he could assure his hon. Friend the Member for Hampstead that if he had the least feeling that any harm would be done to the interests he represented, or that it was necessary for his hon. Friend the Member for Walsall to consider the details of the Bill which he believed he understood thoroughly at that moment —[*laughter*]—he would consent to the Adjournment. He could say without fear of contradiction, having read the Report of the meeting between the bankers and the representatives of the land registry, that there was not one objection which went to the Second Reading of the Bill. All the objections could be dealt with in the Grand Committee, and if not satisfactorily met in the opinion of those raising them, they would be able to oppose the Third Reading of this Bill. He was extremely anxious to get the Bill before the Grand Committee, where he was quite satisfied it would be discussed in a workmanlike way, and where he would endeavour to deal with any objections that might be raised.

Mr. BRODIE HOARE said that after this assurance he would ask leave to withdraw his Motion.

Captain BETHELL (York, E.R., Holderness) thought it a great pity more notice had not been given that the Second Reading would be taken to-night, so that they might have heard the various points of view put forward, not only by the bankers, but by those representatives of the land and real property generally, which a great majority of the Members of the House had not the advantage of hearing at all. On the Committee which sat on this question, and of which the hon. Member for Haddington was a Member, there was a considerable amount of distrust of such a Measure as this, even by those conversant with conveyancing, and he was afraid if a matter like this did not come before a General Committee of the whole House, however acceptable might be legislation upon it, it could not possibly be understood.

Mr. HALDANE desired to say that the objections taken in the Committee to which the hon. Member had referred were formulated by Mr. Benjamin Lake, one of the ablest opponents of the Bill. This gentleman was satisfied with the alterations that had been made, and had written to the newspapers warmly endorsing the Bill, and the Incorporated Law Society had passed a Resolution approving of the Measure. ["Hear, hear!"]

The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY observed that delay had been suggested in this matter in the interests of the three parties who were concerned in the Bill, namely, the great body represented by the Incorporated Law Society, the bankers, and the owners of real property. So far as the Incorporated Law Society were concerned, he would point out that they were satisfied upon every question raised by the Second Reading of the Bill; the bankers were also satisfied on the understanding—which he promised to carry out on the part of the Government—that certain objections which they had to the details of the Measure should be considered in the Committee. He would remind hon. Members that a Bill substantially like the present had been passed in the previous Session, therefore, Parliament might be considered to have already assented to the principle. Several Parliaments in his own recollection had assented to it, and those who cared to go back into the dim vista of the past would find many Parliaments in which the principle had been assented to. ["Hear, hear!"] Then there were the owners of real property, but if they were represented anywhere they were surely represented in the House of Lords, who had passed this Bill he was afraid to say how many times. ["Hear, hear!"] In these circumstances they need not be apprehensive that they were taking any rash step that night if they accepted the Second Reading of a Bill the principle of which, in that House and out of it, had received every species of sanction, assent, and approval of which a Bill was capable. ["Hear, hear!"] In Committee he thought they would be able to put the Measure into a shape which would command the universal assent of every section in every part, and he trusted, therefore, the Second Reading would be agreed to and the Bill referred to the Grand Committee on Law. ["Hear, hear!"]

*__Mr. ALFRED BILLSON__ (Halifax) observed that the fact that this Bill had passed through the House of Lords, and that it had been brought forward in such a satisfactory manner that night, gave them some hope of its passing into law. He remembered how, ten years ago, Lord Randolph Churchill was sanguine of passing such a Bill, declaring that they had a Lord Chancellor who meant business. The long delay led them to doubt this, but now they were approaching the matter with vigour and their hopes were revived. He could speak on this subject from experience. He happened to have been engaged all his life in matters connected with conveyancing in relation to both large and small properties, and had from day to day and week to week heard the objections of those who wished to deal with property of this class, as to the large expense and trouble that were connected with it. He did not think his hon. Friend was correct in saying that the expenses would be reduced four-fifths. That, he thought, was almost too much, but if any Member of his profession had a doubt about the Bill because it was going to reduce the scale of costs he might surely be encouraged by remembering how very much larger the quantity of business would be and how the number of such land transfers would be increased. He hoped the Bill would receive the assent of the House and be placed on the Statute Book this Session.

Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE said he should like some explanation with regard to the local registries. He understood that the fees, which were excessive, would be cut down, and if so that would be very satisfactory. He understood that it was intended to set up a system of local option, and that each County Council was to decide whether the Bill was to be made compulsory within its own area. He thought that would be a very confusing and complicated system, and as far as bankers were concerned, he thought it would be worthless. If the Bill were going to be compulsory in one area and not compulsory in another, it would involve such an investigation on the part of the bankers as would deprive them of the security which was necessary. He hoped the system would be made compulsory all round. He wished to know whether it was proposed to set up new registries in every county, or to utilise the present registries.

Mr. MICHAEL DAVITT (Mayo, S.) said this Bill came to the House supported by lawyers on both sides, and with the approval of the House of Lords, and any Measure which was brought there under such auspices he regarded with suspicion and jealousy. Moreover, the Bill was a comprehensive one, containing 25 or 30 clauses, and ought not, therefore, to be rushed through the House. He should oppose the Motion for the Second Reading.

Mr. COURTENAY WARNER (Stafford, Lichfield) urged that it was necessary when a transfer took place that a certificate as to the boundary of a property should be given. He believed there was to be no map registered.

*Mr. WILLIAM JONES (Carnarvon, Arfon) asked whether the existing registries would be utilised or new registries established?

The ATTORNEY GENERAL was understood to say that some new registries would be established.

Mr. Serjeant HEMPHILL (Tyrone, N.) said that as the Bill did not apply to Ireland, Irish Members might accept it on the responsibility of its eminent sponsors on both sides of the House.

Bill read a Second Time.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL moved "That the Bill be referred to the Grand Committee on Law, Etc."

Dr. TANNER (Cork Co., Mid.) thought the hon. and learned Gentleman ought to be satisfied with having got the Second Reading of the Bill. He would warn all Members on both sides of the House of the danger of landing themselves into difficulties by going on with the business too quickly. It should go slowly if they would come to a safe end. He thought the Attorney General should postpone his Motion until to-morrow, in order that other Members might have an opportunity of expressing their opinions on the Bill.

Mr. JAMES DALY hoped the Attorney General would accede to the very moderate request of his hon. Friend.

Mr. Lloyd-George.

Mr. WARNER considered the Grand Committee on Law the wrong Committee to which to refer a Bill affecting the landlords' pockets. He suggested that it be referred to the Grand Committee on Trade, and as the subject was technical that some lawyers should be added to the Committee.

Captain BETHELL asked his right hon. Friend the Leader of the House, whether he would promise that ample notice would be given of the day the Bill would be reported to the House after the Committee stage.

The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY said he would endeavour to see that his hon. Friend was not taken by surprise in the matter.

Mr. W. E. M. TOMLINSON (Preston) asked whether use would be made of the evidence taken by the Select Committee to which the last Bill was referred?

*Mr. WEIR said that the Bill came from a bad quarter—namely, from the House of Lords—and it was supported by lawyers on both sides. Therefore, it would be most unwise to refer the Bill to a Committee of lawyers. It should be referred to a Committee of the whole House or the Standing Committee on Trade. Business men ought to be on the Committee.

Mr. AUGUSTUS HELDER (Whitehaven) said that this was a Bill which essentially required the consideration of the Committee on Law. The whole House could not deal with the minute but serious points involved. He had put on the Paper an Amendment on behalf of the bankers, whom he in some sense represented. But after the promise of the Attorney General that all these points should be carefully considered, he should not think it necessary to move the Amendment.

Motion agreed to.

Bill committed to the Standing Committee on Law, Etc.

Whereupon Motion made, and Question, "That this House do now adjourn"—*(First Lord of the Treasury)*—put, and agreed to.

House Adjourned accordingly at Twenty Minutes after Eleven o'Clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Friday, 2nd July 1897.

PRIVATE BUSINESS.

DUBLIN CORPORATION BILL.

Order for the Third Reading read.

*The Earl of MAYO had given notice of the following Amendments:—

Clause 9,—

POWER OF TOWNSHIPS TO APPLY FOR SUPPLY AT UNIFORM PRICE.

Notwithstanding anything in this Act or in any of the scheduled Acts, it shall be competent for the Commissioners of any of the townships supplied with water by the Corporation to apply to the Corporation to be supplied with water for all purposes at the uniform rate or price of twopence and four-tenths of a penny for every thousand gallons so supplied, and the Corporation shall thereupon be bound to afford the supply on such terms as aforesaid instead of on the terms as to payment provided by the scheduled Acts:

Provided that after the expiration of ten years from the passing of this Act the rate or price named in this section may on the application of the Commissioners of any township or of the Corporation be revised by the Board of Trade after such local or other inquiry as the Board may think fit.

To leave out the word "ten" ("ten years") and insert the word "three" ("three years").

Clause 10,—

AS TO PAYMENT BY COMMISSIONERS OF KINGSTOWN.

The Commissioners of the township of Kingstown in the event of their being supplied with water by the Corporation under the provisions of the last preceding section shall, in respect of the sum of six thousand pounds expended by the Corporation in the purchase of the rights and property of the Kingstown Waterworks Company, pay yearly to the Corporation a sum equal to the annual interest on the said sum of six thousand pounds at such rate as may be agreed, or failing agreement, as may be determined by an arbitrator to be appointed by the Local Government Board for Ireland.

To leave out the Clause.

THE SECOND SCHEDULE.

PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION TO BE ADDED IN CERTAIN OF THE TOWNSHIPS.

Name of Township.	Additional Percentage.
Bray	30 per centum.
Clontarf	20 "
Dalkey	20 "
Kingstown ...	10 "
Pembroke	5 "

After the word "Kingstown," to insert the words "and Blackrock," and to leave out opposite the word "Kingstown" the figure "10" and to insert "20." He said with regard to these Amendments he had a statement to make to their Lordships. The Bill had been before the House last year, and had been threshed out by four Committees. He had consulted with the Chairman of Committees in regard to these Amendments, and his noble Friend advised him that the Bill having now been before four Committees in this and the other House, it would under the circumstances not be in accordance with precedents to allow Amendments to be inserted at the present stage. His noble Friends, Lords Pembroke and De Vesci, who were interested in the Bill, would be very glad to have Clause 9 amended by substituting "three" for "ten" in line 12, but under the circumstances he desired to withdraw the Amendments. He did so with some reluctance, but he felt that Lord Morley was right in insisting that the force and authority their Lordships usually attached to the decision of a Committee should not be disturbed. This was not the first time this Session he had felt the noble Lord's restraining influence.

The Earl of MORLEY (Chairman of Committees) thanked his noble Friend for withdrawing the Amendments, and thought he had exercised a wise discretion. The House would have been hardly inclined to review a decision of its Committee arrived at after careful consideration.

Bill read a Third time, passed, and sent to the Commons.

MARKET GARDENERS' COMPENSATION (SCOTLAND) BILL.

*LORD REAY, in moving the Second Reading of this Bill, said that by the Act of 1895 the English Agricultural Holdings Act of 1883 was amended in order that it might be made more applicable to market gardening. The object of the present Bill was a very simple one. It was to assimilate the Scotch market gardeners to the English market gardeners in relation to their holdings. The House would notice that there was every guarantee that the holding would not be let, or treated as a market garden, unless previous consent in writing had been given that the holding should be considered as such. The erection or enlargement of buildings was taken out of Part I. of the Schedule of the principal Act and was placed in Part III. of the Schedule, but only when such buildings were for the purpose of the trade or business of a market gardener. For greater security the vegetable crops (placed in Part III. with other improvements relating to market gardens) must continue productive for two or more years. That was not in the Measure which was introduced in this House in 1895 by the noble Earl opposite. For climatic reasons rhubarb was mentioned instead of asparagus in Section 3 (3) (iv.) The economic aspect of the question was rather important. Market gardening had now become a thriving and growing industry in Scotland, but the imports from abroad were still very considerable. In 1896 the value of imported potatoes amounted to about £908,000; of onions to close upon £682,000; of vegetables to £1,284,753; and of fruit to nearly £4,000,000. The main object of the Bill was to secure that market gardens should at the end of the lease be returned to the landlord in a satisfactory condition by encouraging the tenant to make and to maintain improvements. The situation in Scotland was now a very different one from what it was in 1435, when Regnault Gérard, Charles VII.'s Ambassador to James I., presented the Queen with three casks of chestnuts, pears, and apples of divers sorts, who was much pleased, there being little fruit in Scotland.

Earl of Morley.

*THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Lord BALFOUR) said he did not think it necessary to add anything to the explanation which the noble Lord had given of the purposes of this Bill. During its progress through the other House certain Amendments had been accepted which removed the objections which had at first been entertained, and it passed through that House practically as an agreed Measure. Therefore he hoped their Lordships would give it a Second Reading.

Read 2ª (according to Order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Monday next.

POOR LAW OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION ACT (1896) AMENDMENT BILL.

LORD GLENESK said this was a short Bill of only two clauses. It was purely an amending Bill. Last year an Act was passed of a very beneficial nature enabling Poor Law officers to obtain superannuation without touching public moneys in any shape or form. This Act applied to all officers under the Poor Law, and it now appeared that there were classes of officers, especially nurses in the infirmaries, who did not wish to be bound in that way, and very naturally so, because, of course, the nurses did not wish to begin and end their career under the Poor Law. These two clauses provided, the one that the nurses should not be bound by the Act, and the other that any money which had been deducted from their salaries in conformity with the provisions should be returned to them.

THE LORD PRIVY SEAL (Viscount CROSS) said that, in the absence of Lord Harris, he had to say, on behalf of the Local Government Board, that they had no objection whatever to this Bill.

Read 2ª (according to Order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Monday next.

EXTRAORDINARY TITHE BILL.

Considered in Committee (according to Order); Bill reported without Amendment; and re-committed to the Standing Committee.

FISHERIES ACT AMENDMENT BILL [H.L.].

Read 3^a (according to Order), passed, and sent to the Commons.

MERCHANT SHIPPING (UNDERMANNING) BILL.

Considered in Committee (according to Order); Bill reported without Amendment; and re-committed to the Standing Committee.

PROVISIONAL ORDER (SCOTLAND) BILL [H.L.].

*LORD BALFOUR moved that the following Lords formed the Select Committee upon this Bill:—The Earl of Lauderdale, the Earl of Carnwath, the Earl of Morley, the Earl of Camperdown, the Marquess of Lothian, Lord Balfour, Lord Reay, Lord Tweedmouth, and Lord Thring.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN did not object to any of the names proposed, but asked whether it was not desirable that some more noble Lords representing England and Ireland should be appointed to serve upon the Committee. The Bill was nominally a Scotch Bill, but at the same time it effected a change in the system of conducting private business which, if it passed with regard to Scotland would, he apprehended, be extended in some form or other both to England and Ireland. Under the circumstances, it seemed to him it was desirable to have representatives of England upon the Committee in addition to the Earl of Morley and Lord Thring.

THE PRIME MINISTER (The Marquess of SALISBURY) said that his impression was that, as there was no real controversial question involved, this matter would be more suitably dealt with by the Scotch Lords than by any other Committee that could be arranged. The suggestion of the noble Earl that the enactments would afterwards be extended to England was, he thought, animated by an undue distrust of their Lordships' own powers. If there were any fear of Scotch provisions being extended to England, England was quite strong enough to take care of herself. He therefore would not depart from what appeared to be, in a matter of this technical detail, the soundest plan—namely, that those who were acquainted with Scotch business would be the most capable to examine into the suitability of the provisions of the Bill.

Motion agreed to; the Committee to meet on Monday next, at Half-past Three o'clock, and to appoint their own Chairman.

BERRIEW SCHOOL BILL.

Brought from the Commons; Read 1^a, and to be printed.—(No. 140.)

METROPOLITAN AND OTHER POLICE COURTS BILL.

Brought from the Commons; Read 1^a, and to be printed.—(No. 141.)

POLICE (PROPERTY) BILL.

Brought from the Commons; Read 1^a, and to be printed.—(No. 142.)

House Adjourned at Ten Minutes before Five o'Clock, to Monday next, a Quarter before Eleven o'Clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Friday, 2nd July 1897.

QUESTIONS.

IRISH MAIL SERVICE.

MAJOR JAMESON (Clare, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, if he is aware the letters are carried by mail car from Ennis to Kilkee, a distance of 35 miles, although both places have been connected by train for the past four years, with the result that letters which should be delivered at 8.30 a.m. are often not delivered until 1 p.m; is he aware that the reason the letters are sent by mail cart is because the Post Office authorities will not pay a reasonable sum for the carrying of the mails to the West Clare Railway; and if he is prepared to advise a reasonable subsidy being paid to the railway company for carrying the mails to secure an efficient postal service for West Clare?

THE SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. R. W. HANBURY, Preston): The letters are carried by mail car from Ennis to Kilkee, although there is now a railway between the two places. The car is due at Kilkee at 10.5 a.m., and it is very seldom that the delivery has been later that 12 noon, even when there has been loss of time on the railway before the mails reach Ennis. The first train does not arrive at Kilkee till 11.45 a.m. The letters are sent by car because the Postmaster General has not seen his way to pay the company the sum which they have asked for the establishment of suitable trains. The demand of the company may have been reasonable from their point of view, but it was more than the Postmaster General, with a due regard for the Revenue, was warranted in giving. There is now reason to believe that the company are prepared to accept lower terms and the matter is being further inquired into.

MR. D. MACALEESE (Monaghan, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, if he is aware that great inconvenience is caused to merchants and traders in Irish towns by the partial delivery of the mails on Bank Holidays; and, if he will arrange that for the future the deliveries on those days, particularly Whit Monday and the first Monday in August, will be the same as on the ordinary business days of the week, the letter carriers to be compensated for the increased work?

MR. HANBURY: The Postmaster General is not aware that great inconvenience arises from the arrangement referred to by the hon. Member. The arrangement, which is one of long standing, is common to the whole of the United Kingdom, and experience has shown that it meets with the almost universal approbation of the public. In these circumstances the Postmaster General cannot accede to the request of the hon. Member.

DIVISIONAL COMMISSIONER (CO. MONAGHAN).

MR. JAMES DALY (Monaghan, S.): I beg to ask to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state how much of the salary of Divisional Commissioner Slacke comes from the taxpayers of county Monaghan; and, if he can state what duties he performs in that county?

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): Captain Sir Owen Slacke is Divisional Commissioner for the Northern Division of Ireland which comprises eleven counties, of which Monaghan is one. His salary is paid from moneys voted by Parliament. As Divisional Commissioner he has the general supervision of all matters appertaining to police and crime in his division.

CORONERS' INQUESTS.

MR. J. H. YOXALL (Nottingham, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if his attention has been drawn to the fact that jurymen at coroners' inquests often take grave objection to the statutory task, always unpleasant and frequently repulsive or dangerous, of viewing the body; and, if he will consider the subject in order to devise some alternative method, leaving the coroner or jury to decide in difficult cases whether such viewing is necessary, and abolishing such viewing in ordinary and well-attested cases where the medical evidence is conclusive?

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY, Lancashire, Blackpool): Yes, Sir, objection is taken occasionally, I believe, to the performance of this duty; and the question of relaxing the requirement was some years ago under the consideration of this House. I am afraid there is no prospect of my being able to deal with the matter at present, even if it should appear, on consideration, to be desirable to do so, but I will look into it, and ascertain from the coroners what views are held by them upon the subject.

POST OFFICE ESTABLISHMENTS.

MR. YOXALL: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, if the recommendation of the inter-Departmental Committee on Post Office Establishments with regard to auxiliary postmen, namely that Sunday duty should always be paid for at a rate and a-half, has as yet been carried out in all cases?

MR. HANBURY: The recommendations have not yet been carried out in all cases. They affect a large body of men and involved inquiries which have necessarily taken up a good deal of time, but the men will not suffer in any way from the delay, as the increased payments will take effect from the 1st April last.

MR. C. E. SCHWANN (Manchester, N.), I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he can now reply fully to the memorial presented to the Postmaster General on 6th August 1896 (receipt acknowledged on 8th September 1896), especiallly with regard to Clauses 1, 4, 5, and 8.

MR. HANBURY: If the Question refers to a petition from the town postmen in Manchester, concerning which the hon. Member asked a previous Question on the 19th February last, the Postmaster General regrets that he is not yet in a position to reply fully to the petition; unavoidable delay having occurred in the contemplated revision of the duties of the staff. But as the petition is in Manchester with the other official papers it is not possible to give a definite answer respecting the clauses named.

GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY CO. (IRELAND).

MR. MACALEESE: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade, what steps, if any, have been taken to oblige the Great Northern Railway Company of Ireland to erect a bridge at the level crossing on their line of railway at Clones; and, will the Board of Trade at least compel the company to construct a foot bridge so that persons requiring to cross the line at Clones while the gates are closed may be enabled to do so without the risks with which the present tunnel passage is beset?

MR. HANBURY (for Mr. RITCHIE): No, Sir, the Board of Trade cannot compel the Company to substitute a bridge for the existing tunnel passage. The Company state they are not aware of there being any risk whatever attendant upon the use of the subway.

ILLEGAL TRAWLING.

MR. THOMAS HEDDERWICK (Wick Burghs): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty, whether having regard to the incapacity of the gunboat *Redwing*, and the cutter *Active*, to overhaul steam trawlers, he will favourably consider the propriety of substituting for these Government vessels others capable from their speed, of efficiently sea-policing the fisheries of Orkney and Shetland?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. GOSCHEN, St. George's, Hanover Square): In addition to the gunboat *Redwing*, and the cruiser *Active*, the fast torpedo gunboat *Niger* is frequently employed on fishery duties in the Orkney and Shetland waters. The hon. Gentleman is probably aware that it is the intention of the Government, to place on the Table of the House an estimate for the construction of special vessels to be placed at the disposal of the Fishery Board for Scotland.

MR. J. G. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, whether the Government has yet decided to approach the signatories to the North Sea Convention, with a view to an extension of the limit for illegal trawling from 3 to 13 miles?

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Mr. G. CURZON, Lancashire, Southport): The answer is in the negative.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether the contract for the new fishery cruiser has yet been placed; and if so, with what firm?

*THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire): The Fishery Board have not yet entered into a contract for the building of the new cruiser, but no unnecessary time will be spent in bringing the matter to a conclusion which it is hoped will prove satisfactory to all concerned.

PATENT LICENCES.

MR. F. CAWLEY (Lancashire, Prestwich): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he is aware that persons desirous of applying for licences to work patents in this Country under Section 22 of the Patents, Designs, and Trade Marks Act are deterred from doing so because according to eminent legal opinion the cost of procedure in such a case is very heavy, and the language employed in the Section is vague and doubtful; and whether, seeing that the Act as it at present stands is extremely detrimental to British Trade, he will introduce a Measure to amend it?

Mr. HANBURY (for Mr. Ritchie): The Board of Trade do not think that the difficulties suggested by the hon. Member are felt by all persons desirous of applying for licences, as they have several petitions before them at the present time. In one or more of those cases, in all probability, the capabilities of the existing law will be tested. If the law be found wanting my right hon. Friend will at once consider the propriety of amending it.

WICKLOW HARBOUR LOAN.

Mr. HORACE PLUNKETT (Dublin Co., S.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury (1) whether an application has been received from the Session of the Baronies guaranteeing the Wicklow Harbour Loan for a further loan on the terms offered by the Treasury; and (2) whether the Government will at once introduce a Bill to give effect to the contract and the special conditions required by the Baronies, so as to enable the necessary works to be undertaken before the close of the summer?

Mr HANBURY: The answer to the first Question is generally in the affirmative. As regards the second Question, a Bill dealing with the subject is in course of preparation, and will be introduced as soon as ready, if I can be assured that it will meet with no opposition in this House.

WRECK OF STEAMSHIP "ADEN" (GULF OF ADEN LIGHT).

Sir JAMES FERGUSSON (Manchester, N.E.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether for many years Her Majesty's Government have contemplated the erection of a light at the east end of the Gulf of Aden, namely, either on the island of Socotra or on Cape Gardafui; whether the light dues surrendered by Egypt under her commercial treaty with this country were to be applied in part to the erection of such light; whether, since Socotra is under the control of the Aden Political Agency, we have the means of securing the lighthouse from attack by the natives; and whether, seeing that a disastrous wreck has been added to the many which have taken place in past times in the same locality, Her Majesty's Government will take early measures to establish such lighthouse?

Mr. HANBURY (for Mr. Ritchie): The question of lighting the east end of the Gulf of Aden has for some time occupied the attention of Her Majesty's Government. It is believed that the most suitable site for a light, or lights, is in the vicinity of Cape Gardafui, but the lighting of that coast is beset by difficulties, especially with regard to jurisdiction, which have up to the present prevented this scheme from being carried out. No part of the Light Dues surrendered by Egypt will, as at present arranged, be available for lighting either Gardafui or Socotra. There would be no difficulty in securing the safety of a lighthouse at Socotra, but my right hon. Friend is not so clear as regards the safety of one on the mainland. The Board of Trade will spare no pains to overcome the difficulties which have hitherto prevented the lighting of this locality.

POST OFFICE (BRILLEY, HEREFORD).

Mr. JAMES RANKIN (Herefordshire, Leominster): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he would take into his consideration the possibility of establishing a post office in the parish of Brilley, in the county of Hereford?

Mr. HANBURY: There is already a wall letter box at Brilley from which a collection is made at 5 p.m., and it is regretted that the circumstances are not such as to warrant the establishment of a post office in addition to the existing facilities.

STEAMER COMMUNICATION (HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS, SCOTLAND.)

Mr. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he is in a position to state that there will be no diminution in the mail steamer service to the Outer Hebrides?

MR. HANBURY: No statement can be made at present on this subject. The Government have undertaken to give these districts, like the rest of the country, the benefit of the recent Post Office concessions, and probably an inter-Departmental Inquiry will be instituted to ascertain what steamer service is necessary for carrying this into effect.

DELAGOA BAY RAILWAY.

MR. BROOKFIELD (Sussex, Rye): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (1) whether, some few years ago, the President of the Swiss Republic was appointed to arbitrate as to the claims of the bondholders of the Delogoa Bay Railway Company upon the Portuguese Government; (2) whether the final replies to the Portuguese case were sent in before 15th November 1893, and the Portuguese answer before December 1894; and (3) when a final settlement of this question, affecting the interests of holders of £743,000, is likely to be announced?

MR CURZON: The answer to the first two questions is in the affirmative, but I find that the long delays that have taken place have been due in about equal proportions to the successive applications of both parties concerned. The expert who had been sent to South Africa to conduct certain inquiries on the spot having now returned, there is good reason to believe that the final awards will not be much longer delayed.

SHOOTING VERMIN (SCOTLAND.)

SIR MARK STEWART (Kirkcudbright): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate, on what grounds do the Inland Revenue authorities hold, contrary to the decision of the Court of Session in the case of Gosling v. Brown, that rabbits are not vermin in relation to agriculture, and that farmers in Scotland require to take out a gun licence before shooting rabbits for protection of their crops, the Gun Licence Act expressly providing that no such licence should be required by a farmer for shooting vermin?

*THE LORD ADVOCATE: The decision in the case referred to was arrived at by a majority of two Judges to one. I am informed that the Board of Inland Revenue were advised that the decision was erroneous. They have therefore continued to hold that licence duty was chargeable in such cases with a view of obtaining a final decision from the superior Court as soon as an opportunity occurred. No case, however, has occurred in which the view of the Board has been challenged by appeal to a Court of law, but the Board would be glad if such an opportunity were afforded.

CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURE (SCOTLAND).

SIR MARK STEWART: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture if the Government would be willing to form a Consultative Council of Agriculture for Scotland, consisting partly of members of agricultural societies, as is proposed in the Bill for establishing a Board of Agriculture in Ireland?

*THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. WALTER LONG, Liverpool, West Derby): I cannot say that I think any advantage would be gained by the adoption of the suggestion made by the hon. Baronet. The circumstances of the two countries in regard to agricultural organisation are not analogous and, in the case of Scotland, I should be sorry to find myself in any way fettered in regard to the manner in which I can obtain advice and assistance.

OUTRAGES AT POONA.

COLONEL LONG (Worcestershire, Evesham): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India what steps the Government are taking with regard to the state of feeling among natives in India, as shown by late events, more particularly by the murder of Lieutenant Ayerst. The hon. Member also asked the Secretary of State for India whether the Government proposes to recognise in any special manner the services rendered by Mr. Rand and those associated with him in the Poona plague operations.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Lord GEORGE HAMILTON, Middlesex, Ealing): I stated yesterday in this House that the causes and circumstances of the recent outrage at Poona are being investigated, and I have at present nothing to add to that statement. In reply to the hon. Member's second Question I can only say that all services rendered in connection with the plague and famine will be duly considered, and will receive such recognition as they deserve.

Sir WILLIAM WEDDERBURN (Banffshire): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he is aware that in the plague administration European soldiers were employed in house visitations at Poona, whereas Native Sepoys were employed in Bombay; and whether he has any information to show that, in consequence, the feelings and prejudices of the people were more considered in Bombay than in Poona?

Lord GEORGE HAMILTON: I am aware that the services of British soldiers were utilized on plague duty at Poona. I cannot say for certain that they were not similarly employed at Bombay, but Native soldiers were also employed. The European cantonment is large at Poona, while the number of European troops at Bombay is small. I have no information tending to show that the feelings and prejudices of the people were more considered in Bombay than in Poona. As I have already stated, I believe than in both places the Government have been most anxious to do nothing beyond that which was absolutely necessary for the purpose of dealing thoroughly with the plague in its early stages. Lord Sandhurst informed me some time back that he had met the leading inhabitants of Poona to discuss plague regulations, and that the result of the interview was satisfactory.

Sir WILLIAM WEDDERBURN: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether it is his intention to propose Press legislation for India as the result of a private inquiry conducted by the Government regarding recent events at Poona?

Lord GEORGE HAMILTON: I have nothing to add to the answer I gave yesterday to the hon. Member for Staffordshire, and if the hon. Baronet will study the phraseology of that reply he will see that it will not bear the interpretation he has now endeavoured to place upon it.

Sir W. HARCOURT (Monmouth, W.): Do I understand from the noble Lord that no alteration will be made in the Press law of India until the House of Commons has had an opportunity of pronouncing an opinion upon that subject?

Lord GEORGE HAMILTON: I do not know where the right hon. Gentleman got that idea from; but I must respectfully point out to him that the Indian Government is responsible for the maintenance of law and order in India —[*Ministerial cheers*]—and that upon the Indian Government rests constitutionally the responsibility of initiating such measures as they may consider essential to the discharge of this their duty. [*Ministerial cheers.*] Any action which they may so take is, of course, subject to review in this House. There is no ground, in my judgment, at the present moment for reversing these well-established principles. [*Ministerial cheers.*]

ASYLUMS (IRELAND.)

Mr. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether contractors to asylums in Ireland are obliged to sign a bond for the fulfilment of the contract, whether members of the asylum board (or other person on their behalf), as the second party to the contract, are also obliged to sign the bond; and whether in case the asylum board failed to sign the bond, the board could hold the contractor liable for the fulfilment of the contract or refuse to pay him for goods supplied on the ground that the board had not signed his bond?

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: Contractors to Asylums sign a bond for the due fulfilment of their contracts, if required to do so by the Board of Governors. Members of the Asylum Board, or other persons on their behalf, are not obliged to sign the bond.

WESTMINSTER HALL (STATUARY).

Colonel WELBY (Taunton): I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works whether it is intended to complete the architectural designs of the north front of Westminster Hall by filling the niches with statues of personages connected with the history of our country?

The FIRST COMMISSIONER of WORKS (Mr. Akers-Douglas, Kent, St. Augustine's): There is no proposal such as my honourable and gallant Friend suggests, under the consideration of the Office of Works.

NATIONAL SCHOOLS (IRELAND.

MR. DALY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he will explain why assistant teachers in national schools are not paid as much salary as assistant teachers in model schools?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: The system of payment is somewhat different in the two cases, the staffs of the Model Schools being almost entirely dependent on the payments made to them by the Commissioners by whom they are appointed, whereas the payments made to teachers of ordinary National Schools are grants in aid towards the maintenance of those Schools. Moreover, the Model School Staffs have the responsibility of educating Pupil Teachers for the office of Teacher. Of late years, since the Irish Education Act of 1892 became operative, the Staffs of ordinary National Schools have become more dependent than formerly on the grants from the Commissioners. The whole question of the condition of the Model Schools, including their financial position, is at present under the consideration of a Committee of the whole Board.

MR. DALY: May I ask the right hon. Gentleman whether the assistant teachers in the National Schools do not perform the same duties as assistant teachers in the Model Schools for a similar salary?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: The question of the hon. Member would point to paying these extra sums to the Model Schools rather than to assimilate the National Schools to the Model Schools.

MR. JOHN DILLON (Mayo, E.): Can the right hon. Gentleman say when we may expect the Report?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: No, Sir, I am not at present in a position to give an answer to that question.

MR. DILLON: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury what is the total amount of applications for grants to build National Schools now before the Irish Board of Works: and whether this sum was considered by the Treasury when making up the Estimate for the present year?

MR. HANBURY: Applications for grants for building National Schools are made, not to the Commissioners of Public Works, but to the Commissioners of National Education who decide the amounts to be given and the priority of the claims, having regard to the amount made available by Parliament. It was decided in 1895 after consultation with the Irish Government and the National Education Commissioners, that the most convenient arrangement for the latter body would be to fix the amount of the grant for a term of years and the sum, £40,000, in this year's Estimates is the result of that arrangement.

MR. DILLON: The right hon. Gentleman has not stated the total amount of the grant now under consideration.

MR. HANBURY: I don't know that we have the information at the Treasury. That is rather a matter for the Commissioners.

MR. G. MURNAGHAN (Tyrone, Mid): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that teachers of national schools experience some difficulty in obtaining school books, copy books, and pens, owing to the long delay in forwarding the articles and because only one-half of the order is sent; and, will he call the attention of the Commissioners of National Education to this matter and to the importance of a full supply of books, etc., being in the schools?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: There has been a failure on the part of a contractor, newly appointed from the 1st April last, to supply books and school requisities within the prescribed time. It is hoped that in the course of a few days supplies will be received for issue to the schools concerned. The contractor has been warned that the contract will be cancelled unless the books, etc., are delivered forthwith.

MR. MURNAGHAN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that teachers of national schools do not receive the amount due for result fees for a considerable amount of time from date of examination, and that in some cases two or three months elapse before final payment is made; and, will steps be taken to have these payments made more promptly?

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: The Results fees earned at the Annual Results Examinations on the passes given by the inspectors are, as a rule, paid within a month from the date of the receipt of the Reports in the office of the Commissioners. Where irregularities are observed in the course of the examination of the Reports, necessitating correspondence with inspectors or managers, it may not be possible to come to a final settlement, and to pay the fees, within the usual and prescribed time. In cases where troublesome correspondence is proceeding, and prolonged delay in settlement apprehended, efforts are made to pay so much of Results fees as safely can be discharged, pending the issue of the investigations upon which the final payment must depend. Every effort is directed to be made to have the payments made promptly; but under a system where the payments are made to the individual teachers, and are subject to various conditions unavoidable delays will sometimes occur.

Mr. J. GIBNEY (Meath, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether Mrs. Elizabeth Carpenter, of Grangeguth, county Meath, was obliged to resign her position as school teacher on account of ill health, and after service of 18 years and five months; and, whether the Commissioners of National Education have refused compensation to Mrs. Carpenter; if so, could he state upon what grounds?

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: Mrs. Carpenter, who is 37 years of age, resigned from the 1st September, 1896, after a period of service as stated. The report of the District Inspector on her application for a retiring gratuity was not such as indicated a decided opinion on his part as to her permanent incapacity, and the manager of the School was informed that before the case could be certified to the Pension Department it would be necessary for Mrs. Carpenter to consult a specialist and obtain his certificate as to the permanent character of her malady. As soon as the required certificate is received the case will be further considered.

IRISH BOARD OF WORKS.

Mr. DALY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that a man, named Shanaghan, has been appointed to the position of Assistant Secretary to the Board of Works, and that much dissatisfaction exists among the staff in consequence; whether he can say if Shanaghan's appointment was competitive, or had he any previous knowledge of the work of this office; whether it has been customary to appoint to the office in question only men who passed Civil Service examination; and, whether Shanaghan did this?

Mr. HANBURY: The office of Assistant Secretary to the Board of Works is a new post created in 1896, in order to strengthen the staff, especially with reference to Railway work. The appointment was made under Clause 7 of the Order in Council of 4th June 1870, which requires the Civil Service Commissioners to be satisfied of the fitness and qualifications of the person presented to them, with the consent of the Treasury, by the Department concerned. The post being a new creation, no officer of the Department had a claim to be appointed to it and none had the special qualifications required.

Mr. DALY: The right hon. Gentleman has not answered the first part of my question, namely: Was there dissatisfaction amongst the staff at the appointment of Shanaghan over the heads of men who had spent all their lives in the office?

Mr. HANBURY: I am not aware that there is any dissatisfaction? If it do exist, there is no reason for it, because none of them were qualified for the appointment.

Mr. DALY: Will the right hon. Gentlemen make inquiries to see if there is any dissatisfaction amongst the staff?

Mr. HANBURY: I have made inquiries about it already. I know all about it.

Mr. DILLON: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury how many applications for loans to build workmen's dwellings have been received by the Irish Board of Works during last year; and, how many have been refused?

Mr. HANBURY: 17 Memorials for loans were presented last financial year. Of these seven were sanctioned, four are still under inquiry, one was withdrawn temporarily for private reasons, one was withdrawn because the Board of Works, in view of the insufficient security offered, declined to recommend the full amount asked; one was withdrawn because the Board limited the advance to suitable houses, excluding houses that were too large and expensive, one was postponed by the Board until existing arrears on other loans should be paid up, one was refused on account of the inadequacy of the security offered, and one was refused because the projected houses were in excess of the size and cost suitable to the purposes of the Act.

In reply to a further question from Mr. DILLON,

MR. HANBURY said that, as he had already stated, 17 memorials were sent in, and of these seven were sanctioned. He had full particulars of the other ten, but they were too long to state across the Table of the House.

INDIAN LOANS.

MR. THOMAS BAYLEY (Derbyshire, Chesterfield): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he has had brought to his notice the memorandum by Mr. J. H. Sleigh, manager of the Bank of Bombay, showing the large economy that would be secured by taking up a sterling loan here instead of, as proposed by the Government officials, a rupee loan of four crores in India?

LORD GEORGE HAMILTON: My attention has been drawn to the memorandum by the manager of the Bank of Bombay, showing what would in his opinion be the economy resulting from raising a loan in sterling instead of in rupees, as indicated in the financial statement of the Government of India. I will only point out to the hon. Member that Mr. Sleigh's calculations are purely hypothetical, being based on assumptions as to the price at which a second sterling loan could now be issued as compared with a rupee loan, and as to the rate of exchange, not only in the immediate future, but also during the whole of the next 15 years.

EDUCATION ACT (ASSOCIATIONS.)

LORD WARKWORTH (Kensington, S.): I beg to ask the Vice President of the Committee of Council on Education whether, in the event of any recommendation of an association being disapproved of by the Education Department, the particular amount so refused will be referred back to the association to be dealt with or whether the Education Department will proceed to allot it without further reference to the association.

THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL (Sir JOHN GORST, Cambridge University): I am afraid I cannot give a general answer. Each case will be considered with reference to the particular circumstances.

REPORTED DANGEROUS ROCK IN THE ATLANTIC.

MR. CUMMING MACDONA (Southwark, Rotherhithe): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty whether he is aware that in the *Hydrographic Bulletin*, published in Washington, U.S.A., on 16th June last, a report is made in which it is stated that on 2nd May 1897, at 7.40 a.m., a rock 60 feet long, about seven feet wide, and about eight feet out of the water, was seen at about 600 yards distance by Captain Lloyd, of the British ship *Crompton*, in lat. 47. N., long. 37.20, W; and, whether, if upon investigation this report should be confirmed, the location of this rock, dangerous to navigation, will be placed upon the Admiralty Charts?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY: The report was duly received at the Admiralty. If confirmed, the rock would be shown on the charts in the ordinary course, but the existence of an unknown rock above water in the middle of the Atlantic, situated precisely on the line followed by the vast trade between Great Britain and America is so incredible that it is not proposed to take, in the meanwhile, any steps in the matter.

BOARDING-OUT ORDERS.

LORD EDMUND TALBOT (Sussex, Chichester): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board when guardians grant out-relief to a child who is living with a person not legally liable for its support, does it come under the Boarding-out Orders of 1889; if not, what provision is made by the Local

Government Board for the welfare and protection of such children?

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. HENRY CHAPLIN, Lincolnshire, Sleaford): The view of the Local Government Board is that the Boarding-out Orders apply in the cases referred to.

WRECK (INDIAN TROOPSHIP "WARREN HASTINGS.")

MR. J. L. WANKLYN (Bradford, Central): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War upon what date compensation was paid to the officers and men who lost their property in the wreck of the *Warren Hastings* off the Island of Réunion on the 13th January last, nearly six months ago, and who behaved on that occasion with great gallantry?

THE HON. MEMBER also asked the Under Secretary of State for War whether, beyond the 24s. for a free kit, it is proposed to give the rank and file, who lost their property in the wreck of the *Warren Hastings* off the island of Réunion on the 13th January last, 10s. only as a gratuity for the loss of their private property, and no reward whatever as a recognition of their gallantry and fine exhibition of discipline upon that occasion?

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): The officers and men who lost their property in the *Warren Hastings* are distributed in several foreign commands, and inquiries necessarily took time. Free kits were issued on January 28th, and the orders for payment of compensation have all been dispatched. Every sufferer by the wreck has received a sum in excess of the regulations, and the military authorities regard the sums awarded as adequate to the loss incurred. The gallantry and discipline of the troops have been fully recognised in the proper manner.

ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY.

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland (1) if he will state whether, of the eight Head Constables who were nominated to compete on the 30th June for two vacancies in the rank of district inspector, one is Head Constable Roe, of Queenstown, who was cast in damages by the County Court Judge of Kerry, and was also severely censured by Mr. Justice Gibson at the last Cork Summer Assizes in connection with a charge of abduction for proselytizing purposes; (2) is another of the nominees Head Constable Marks, clerk to the commandant, who has never been in charge of a station or a party; (3) how are Head Constables selected for these examinations; and (4) is he aware that the recent nominations have caused great dissatisfaction in the force?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: There are seven, not eight, Head Constables now undergoing examination for the rank of District Inspector, two of the competitors being Head Constables Roe and Marks. In the case in which damages were awarded against Head Constable Roe, the Treasury sanctioned his being repaid the sum awarded (£5), on the ground that he had acted in a *bonâ-fide* manner and in the interests of the public, though he had made a mistake upon a point of law. The circumstances of the other case concerning this Head Constable were referred to by me in answer to the Question of the hon. and learned Gentleman of the 31st July 1896. In consequence of his action in that case he was deprived of the opportunity of competing at a similar examination for promotion held last year. It is considered that he was sufficiently punished by this deprivation, and that his advancement should not be further retarded. As regards Head Constable Marks, it is true he has not yet been in charge of a station, but his practical knowledge of such duties will in due course be tested. The selections are made in strict accordance with the regulations laid down by the Lord Lieutenant; a copy of which I will forward to the hon. Gentleman if he so desires. I have no information to the effect mentioned in the last paragraph.

MR. T. M. HEALY: Has the right hon. Gentleman any information that enables him to say whether the majority of those persons are Protestants or Catholics?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I have no information on the point whatever.

MR. T. M. HEALY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland (1) if his attention has been called to the fact that a verdict of £35 was returned against District Inspector Langhorne, Castlecomer, for falsely imprisoning a mason named Williams, who was doing work in his house, and against whom he brought an unfounded prosecution, which was quashed at quarter sessions; (2) whether the District Inspector has paid the damages without taking an appeal from the verdict; and (3) have the Government taken any notice of the matter?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: The facts are as stated in the first and second paragraphs. The action of Mr. Langhorne under the circumstances referred to has been investigated by the Inspector General of Constabulary, who has taken such notice of his conduct on the occasion as appeared to him to be proper.

MR. T. M. HEALY: Is Inspector Langhorne to be allowed to remain in a district where he has been proved to have brought an unfounded charge against a poor man?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I have told the hon. and learned Member what the Inspector General says. It is considered that the man has been rather severely mulcted in damages, and he has been ordered to be reprimanded, but beyond that nothing has been done.

COUNTY CESS (IRELAND).

MR. T. M. HEALY: I beg to ask the Attorney General for Ireland (1) whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that the magistrates of Keady Petty Sessions recently refused to direct warrants to the police for recovery of county cess, as the barony high constable would not name any person to execute them; (2) what is the usual practice in such cases in other districts; and (3) considering that 6 and 7 Will. IV. c. 116, s. 152, directs that the warrants should be addressed to and executed by the barony high constable, and that he may levy by distress either with or without warrant, and as he has a large percentage for collection, will the Government allow the burthen of performing this duty in a county like Armagh to be thrown on the police?

*THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. J. ATKINSON, Londonderry, N.): I believe the facts are as stated in the first paragraph, but I am informed that the matter will be again considered by them on the 9th July. Until a final decision has been arrived at by the magistrates, it would not be desirable to reply to the third paragraph of the Question.

MR. T. M. HEALY: What I want to know, for the guidance of the magistrates, is, what is the practice in other counties?

*THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND: That is what I object to say. The magistrates should be allowed to decide without any guidance from me.

SOUTH METROPOLITAN SCHOOL, SUTTON.

SIR SAMUEL MONTAGU (Tower Hamlets, Whitechapel); I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he is aware that the pauper children belonging to the South Metropolitan School at Sutton were so arranged as to solicit alms from the persons going to and from the races on Derby Day; that they received £197 or some such sum on that day; and that the school bands were playing to attract notice; whether similar practices have occurred before; and whether steps have been or will be taken to prevent children from being officially allowed to beg in future.

MR. CHAPLIN: I am informed that the children in the District Schools at Sutton are permitted to assemble in the field belonging to the school, which abuts on the road to Epsom Downs, to see the people passing on their way to and from the races. They are prohibited from asking from money, but money is often voluntarily given by good-natured passers-by throwing coins to children in the field. The sum thus received in the recent Epsom week is correctly stated in the question, and the money is applied to defraying the expenses of an annual outing to the Crystal Palace or the seaside and otherwise in providing recreation for the children. The School bands played, but not, it is said, for the purpose of attracting attention. The practice referred to has existed for more than 20 years. It would be a great disappointment to the children if it were prohibited, and I see no reason for interfering.

CRETE.

Mr. J. C. FLYNN (Cork, N.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the Bashi-Bazouks returning from Kani-Kasteli with their plunder attacked the Cretan Christians and killed 13 of them; and, whether the booty was openly sold by auction in Candia, and realised a considerable sum?

Sir E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT (Sheffield, Ecclesall): Before the right hon. Gentleman answers this question I beg to ask him another—whether these unfortunate conflicts which occur near the towns are caused by the fact that a large number of Mussulman refugees are cooped up by the Christian insurgents in very confined positions, where they are unable to obtain either food for themselves or pasture for their cattle?

Mr. CURZON: In answer to the Question just addressed to me by the hon. Baronet, I may say that I believe the statement he has made correctly represents the facts of the situation. In reply to the Question on the Paper, I have to say that no such information has been received.

Mr. FLYNN: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the Question is based on a statement made by *The Times* correspondent yesterday?

Mr. CURZON: I have not myself seen the statement.

Mr. FLYNN: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the plundering of the houses of Christians still takes place in Candia under the eyes of the European troops; and if he can state whether the garrison is sufficient for the maintenance of order and the protection of life and property?

Mr. CURZON: Colonel Chermside reported on the 15th of June that two premises in Candia had been broken open, and that some of the perpetrators had been arrested. No later report of plundering has been received. If Colonel Chermside should consider that the troops in Candia are insufficient for the maintenance of order and protection of property he will no doubt report to that effect. No such representation has yet been received from him.

Mr. FLYNN: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, in connection with the recent raid made by Mahomedan Bashi-Bazouks in the Christian village of Kani-Kasteli, whether it is a fact that their intention was known to several of the Christian inhabitants, who informed the consulates and the military authorities of the intended raid; if so, what steps were taken by the representatives of the Great Powers to prevent these armed men from sallying forth out of the protected zone and killing a number of Christian villagers; and whether any steps have been taken to punish those engaged in the raid and to prevent its recurrence?

Mr. CURZON: Her Majesty's Government have received no information of the kind mentioned in the Question. There is now no protected zone outside Candia, the arrangements to that effect having been cancelled by agreement with the insurgents. Nor do the Moslems appear, in the case in question, to have sallied forth until two successive ambuscades had been laid for them by the Christians. Colonel Chermside reports that he is in correspondence with the local authorities concerning the prevention of similar incidents in future.

Mr. FLYNN: May I ask the right hon. Gentleman whether he is aware that the Canea delegates have petitioned the Admirals complaining of the inaction or the military authorities?

Mr. CURZON: No, Sir; I have not heard.

THESSALY.

Mr. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether his attention has been given to the statement, telegraphed by Reuter's correspondent in Constantinople and published in the Press, that Sir Philip Currie, Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, has received letters from Mr. C. N. E. Eliot recently sent to Thessaly to report on affairs there, and giving the substance of those letters; whether Her Majesty's Government have yet received copies of the letters in question; and, if not, when they expect to receive them; who communicated to the newspaper correspondent the substance of Mr. Eliot's reports; whether Her Majesty's Government have any information showing whether those reports were communicated by Mr. Eliot to any other person than Sir Philip Currie; and, if so, to what other person; and whether

Her Majesty's Government propose to take any steps to prevent in the future the publication in the Press of public documents before they have been communicated to Parliament?

MR. CURZON: The statement alluded to gives only the briefest outline of what are alleged to be Mr. Eliot's Reports. These have not yet been received here, but, if they have reached Constantinople, will no doubt be forwarded at once. We do not know whether the letters have been shown to anybody or whether they are public or private documents. The brief announcement in the Press cannot be said to amount to publication of them, nor does there seem to be any objection to the facts being made public, as they appear to correct exaggerated rumours.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: Is the right honl. Gentleman aware that many of the statements made by the newspaper correspondents, apparently on the information of the Ambassador, are directly at variance with the truth?

MR. CURZON: I decline to admit either of the assertions contained in the hon. Gentleman's Question. In the first place, there cannot be "many' statements attributed to the Ambassador, because the telegraphed summary sent to the newspapers only occupies eight or nine lines of *The Times*; and in the second place, so far as our information goes, none of the statements are in direct contravention of the truth.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the telegram occupies 20 lines?

MR. CURZON: I am not aware.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: Will the right hon. Gentleman look at it? [*Cries of* "Order!"]

LAND LAW (IRELAND) ACTS.

MR. JOHN MORLEY (Montrose Burghs): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is now in a position to state how the proposed Commission of Inquiry into the working of the Irish Land Acts is to be composed, and what will be the order of reference.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: The terms of reference are as follows:—"To inquire into and report upon the procedure and practice and the methods of valuation followed by the Land Commission and the Civil Bill Courts in Ireland under the Land Law (Ireland) Acts—(*a*) in fixing fair rents; (*b*) in ascertaining the true value to be paid for a tenant's interest in a holding by a landlord exercising the right of pre-emption; also to inquire into and report upon the procedure and practice and the methods of valuation followed by the Land Commission and the Land Judges Court respectively in carrying out the provisions of the Land Purchase (Ireland) Acts." I shall be prepared to state the names of the Commissioners upon the Queen's pleasure being signified in regard to them.

MR. J. MORLEY: If I rightly apprehend the right hon. Gentleman's description of the order of reference, the last part of that order will include and prescribe inquiry into the action of Mr. Justice Ross—that is to say, a judicial Court—in interpreting Section 40 of the Irish Land Act of 1896.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I should not like to pronounce off hand, but it is not intended that this Commission should inquire into legal points.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): Will the Land Commissioners try cases while the new Commission is actually trying the Land Commissioners?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: No, Sir this Commission is not to inquire into special cases.

MR. MACNEILL asked if the Commission would not inquire as to the general practice of the Land Courts, and, therefore, as to the conduct of the Commissioners.

[No answer was given.]

MR. MACNEILL: With great respect, I must insist upon an answer. [*Laughter.*]

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order.

POSTAL DELIVERY (IRELAND).

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, is he in a position to say when the house-to-house delivery of letters in the rural districts of Ireland will be commenced?

MR. HANBURY: The Surveyors have been directed to submit, and, as a matter of fact, have begun to submit, their proposals for extending the delivery of letters throughout the United Kingdom in accordance with the promises of the Budget Speech, and these proposals, after their examination in the Secretary's Office, will be carried into effect without any unnecessary delay. I must remind the hon. Member however, that, as my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer stated in his Budget Speech, the work of extending the deliveries to all parts of the country will occupy a considerable time, and cannot possibly be completed within the present financial year.

WATERFORD DUNGARVAN AND LISMORE RAILWAY.

Mr. JAMES O'CONNOR: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury if it is true that the Treasury have received an offer from an English Railway Company for the purchase of the Waterford Dungarvan and Lismore Railway; and, if true, whether the offer has been accepted?

Mr. HANBURY: Yes, Sir, we have received an offer from an English and Irish Railway Company. I do not know whether the hon. Member objects to the employment of English capital in Ireland. The offer of an Irish Railway Company was, as he knows, declined on the ground that it might not prove of advantage to the district; and I believe that that refusal was generally approved in the district. The negotiations with the company mentioned in the question are still pending.

CHANNEL FLEET.

Captain DONELAN (Cork, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether in view of the loss inflicted upon the traders of Queenstown by the protracted absence of the guard ship *Howe*, the Admiralty will consider the desirability of making some compensation by permitting a portion of the Fleet to visit Cork Harbour during the Autumn Manœuvres?

The FIRST LORD of the ADMIRALTY: In reply to the hon. and gallant Member's Question, the Admiralty must entirely repudiate the principle on which he founds his question, that there is a kind of pecuniary vested interest to any locality in the presence of guardships

or other Government vessels. As I have repeatedly stated, movements of Her Majesty's ships must be guided by naval considerations.

Captain DONELAN: Will the right hon. Gentleman not give special consideration to this special case?

The FIRST LORD of the ADMIRALTY: No, Sir; I must leave the question of the manœuvres to my naval advisers without introducing pecuniary considerations.

PUBLICANS' LICENCES, DUBLIN.

Mr. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland (1) whether it was in accordance with the wishes of the publicans or in the interest of public order that the Chief Commissioner of the Dublin Metropolitan Police, in response to a memorial, recently changed the hour of opening for certain public houses in the vicinity of the Dublin Corporation markets from 4.30 a.m. to 5.45 a.m.; (2) whether the Chief Commissioner of Police has granted a new exemption order in favour of five publicans who had forfeited the early opening privilege allowing them to open henceforth at 4.30 a.m.; (3) whether he will state why these publicans had been deprived of the privilege now restored; and (4) whether it is his intention to make any change in the exemption order of those traders who never forfeited their early licences, but who are now forced to keep their houses closed till 5.45 a.m., while their competitors who had forfeited theirs are allowed to open at 4.30 a.m.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: It was at the request of a deputation of publicans that the Chief Commissioner of Police made the change mentioned in the first paragraph. The reply to the second paragraph is in the affirmative. These publicans had been deprived of the privilege of early opening in consequence of breaches of the law. The publicans opening at 5.45 a.m. have been informed by the Chief Commissioner that if they found that it would be for the advantage of their customers that the earlier opening hour of 4.30 a.m. should be restored, he would be prepared to revert to this latter hour.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

*Sir CHARLES DILKE (Gloucester, Forest of Dean): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury when it is intended to take the Foreign Office Vote?

Sir E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT inquired when it was proposed to take the Vote for the Colonial Office?

The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.): I think that both these Votes had better be deferred, and the Foreign Office Vote certainly, because it will be the last ordinary opportunity which the House will have for raising any question which they desire to raise on the foreign policy of the Government.

*Sir C. DILKE: There will be the Appropriation Bill.

The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY: There might then be a very thin House, and it is not a very convenient time—being the last day of the Session—to raise any question. I should suggest that both Votes should be deferred as long as the other exigencies of Supply render it possible.

*Sir C. DILKE: May I remind the right hon. Gentleman that the House has had no opportunity of pronouncing an opinion upon the extraordinary delay that has taken place in the settlement of the terms between Greece and Turkey?

The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY: That, of course, is quite true; but, as the right hon. Baronet will readily see, the House is not likely to be more anxious than the Government are to bring these negotiations to a conclusion, and certainly no complaints we make in this House are likely to hurry events. I should have said that the functions of the House are more by way of criticism than in any other direction. I should, therefore, think that my plan would be the best.

Sir W. HARCOURT: Can the First Lord of the Treasury give us any further idea as to the order of business for next week? Can he say when the Naval Works Bill will be introduced? We are anxious to see that Bill, and it is now rather late in the Session.

The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY: The Naval Works Bill would have been introduced before, but, as the House is aware, the First Lord of the Admiralty has been absent for official reasons for some time past. I think he will be in a position to introduce it on an early date. The Bill is quite ready, and it might be convenient that the House should allow it to be introduced in Committee on Monday, before we commence the consideration of the report stage of the Workmen's Compensation Bill. That must be done without Debate, or at any rate prolonged Debate. Otherwise the main business for Monday, and, if requisite, the following day, must necessarily be the report stage of the Workmen's Compensation Bill.

Mr. T. M. HEALY asked the President of the Board of Agriculture, with a view to saving time on Monday, whethe his promised opposition to the Merse Docks Bill would be made on behalf o the Government?

*Mr. LONG: No, I do not think I am entitled to say it will be made on behalf of the Government. In my capacity as Minister for Agriculture I have examined the case on both sides, and I have come to the conclusion that injury would be done to the agricultural interests of Ireland if the Bill were passed in its present form. I do not think it necessary that opposition should be offered on behalf of the Government, or in any other way, inasmuch as the promoters of the Bill, as I am informed, are prepared to accept the decision we have already indicated in order to avoid the rejection of the Bill. The House will be asked on Monday to permit the excision of the clauses to which the hon. Gentleman and his friends take objection.

Mr. MACNEILL asked when the War Office Vote would be taken?

The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY: I do not think it will be taken before Friday week.

Captain SINCLAIR (Forfar) asked when it was intended to take the Committee stage of the Education (Scotland) Bill?

The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY: I cannot tell precisely when the Committee stage of the Bill will be taken, but it will not be next week.

Sir CHARLES CAMERON (Glasgow, Bridgton) asked before what date would the Committee stage of the Public Health (Scotland) Bill not be taken?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: It will not be taken next week.

SIR C. CAMERON: Not till after the Scotch Education Bill?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: Probably it will be after the Scotch Education Bill.

MR. SCHWANN asked when the Post Office Vote would be taken?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: I will endeavour to take it on Friday week, but I cannot give an absolute pledge.

QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE.

COMMEMORATION SERVICE IN ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY moved:—

> "That the thanks of this House be given to the Very Rev. Frederick William Farrar, D.D., Dean of Canterbury, for the sermon preached by him on Sunday, the 20th day of June last, before this House in St. Margaret's Church, Westminster, and that he be desired to print the same; and that Mr. Balfour and Secretary Sir Matthew White Ridley do acquaint him therewith."

CAPTAIN CHALONER (Wilts, Westbury) said it would be in the knowledge of the Leader of the House that the sermon contained certain remarks of a distinctly political nature—[*Opposition cries of* "Oh!" *and Ministerial cheers*]—if not of a controversial nature, and although he would be sorry to oppose the vote of thanks, he would appeal to the right hon. Gentleman to accept an Amendment to insert after the words "to print the same," that he be requested to omit such parts of the said sermon. [*Opposition cries of* "No!" *and Ministerial cheers.*]

*MR. SPEAKER: I think any such Amendment would be unusual and irregular. [*Opposition cries of* "Hear, hear!"] The Motion must either be accepted or refused. It is a Motion that has been proposed in this form on every occasion that this House has attended St. Margaret's Church. ["Hear, hear!"]

Motion agreed to.

Sir Charles Cameron.

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

SUPPLY.

[FIFTEENTH ALLOTTED DAY.]

Considered in Committee.

[The CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS, Mr. J. W. LOWTHER, in the Chair.]

CIVIL SERVICE ESTIMATES, 1897-8.

CLASS I.

1. Motion made, and Question proposed,

> "That a sum, not exceeding £137,137, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1898, for the erection, repairs, and maintenance of public buildings in Ireland, and for the maintenance of certain parks and public works, and for drainage works on the river Shannon."

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.) objected to the lavish sums being spent on the Viceregal Lodge in Dublin when it was notorious that the Viceroy resided less and less in the country. Then the Chief Secretary's Lodge had cost in a year for repairs £1,025. Now it was proposed to spend £650 more to extend the conservatories. If the Chief Secretary was fond of flowers let him build a conservatory for himself. There were five or six conservatories as it was. Yet he had never seen the Chief Secretary with a flower in his buttonhole. [*Laughter.*] But the conservatories were run on strictly commercial lines. The flowers were sent to Covent Garden or sold in the fruiterers' shops in Dublin, and he believed they were the gardener's perquisites. The hon. Member also objected to the sum proposed to be spent on new heating apparatus at Queen's College, Galway. Galway College was notoriously a failure, and he objected to a further expenditure on useless educational institutions. Why, he asked, should not the professors, whose offices were sinecures, contribute this sum for the heating apparatus which was desired. At present there were 105 students in the institution, and their culture cost the enormous sum of £6,505 10s. 4d. a year. Another point was this, that a considerable sum, some £1,200, was to be devoted to the alteration of the ground floor of the postal and telegraph buildings in Dublin. These alterations had already been begun, and at present they were a perfect disgrace and scandal. It was intended to make a new telegraph office for handing telegrams between say 11 o'clock at night and 8 o'clock in the morning. The huge construction for which this sum was to be charged seemed to be at present the most badly ventilated and heated place he knew of. He did not know how the telegraph clerks could stay there, as the building was the acme of discomfort both in summer and winter, and was expensive and wasteful and injurious to those who had to frequent it. He objected to the sum of £150 for the boundary wall and railing of the Queen's College, Belfast. The last time he was there it had a good boundary and a good railing, and he could only imagine that during the last few years they had simply, for the fun of the thing, thrown down the railing. But they objected to the expenditure because they objected to the education given at this college. He hoped to have an answer from the right hon. Gentleman the Chief Secretary for Ireland in regard to the gardens of the Chief Secretary's Lodge. There was another matter which he desired to mention. There was one building in Ireland which, if it were removed to Florence would even adorn that city, he referred to the Custom House of Dublin. There was in this building an Italian portico of very excellent design, which was actually being filled up, the interstices between the pillars were being filled up, and he believed they were asking for a sum of £1,400 or £1,500 for this. He would not move any reduction, but he hoped the Chief Secretary would be told of the points which he had referred to.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE (Kerry, W.) said he wished to direct the attention of the authorities to the desirability of establishing a coastguard station at Castle Gregory, in Tralee Bay, County Kerry. There was no telegraph office near the place, and they had to send across the country to try and get coastguard apparatus when it was needed for the saving of life. The post office in College Green, Dublin, was extremely badly situated and badly furnished, and the telegraph clerks had to work there under conditions of great discomfort. If it was not possible to improve the present premises, new buildings of a suitable character ought to be obtained in College Green. In reference to the alterations in the Custom House, Dublin, he wished to know what had been done with the collection of very valuable historical paintings in that building. He suggested that the pictures should be removed to some place, such as the National Gallery, where they could be properly looked after and be seen and appreciated by the public.

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.) said that this Vote, which would be charged against Ireland in an Imperial balance sheet, was made up of a number of charges with which Ireland, as a separate fiscal entity, had no concern whatever. For instance, there was a charge of £9,937 for the improvement of coastguard stations. He submitted that that was an Imperial charge, and that it had no business whatever in an Irish Vote. Its proper place was in the Navy Estimates. Again, the Dublin Custom House, so far as it was used for Imperial revenue, should be charged to Imperial revenue. The Royal Hospital, Dublin, was like the Chelsea Hospital, a home for worn-out veterans, and was, therefore, an Army charge. The Royal Hibernian Military School was intended for the training of young lads to feed the Army, and was, therefore, an Imperial charge. Again, why should the charge for the Quit Rent Office be included in an Irish Vote? Quit rent went entirely in case of the Crown. The Vote also contained an enormous charge for postal and telegraph services, which he submitted should be included in the Post Office Vote. Altogether there were about £20,000 of Charges, which were strictly Imperial in their nature, and could not be considered in any sense Irish. He could not find in the Vote for the English Board of Works anything analogous to the charges in the Vote for the Irish Board of Works. The total of the English Vote was only £55,200, while the Irish Vote amounted to £270,137, which showed that things were charged to the Irish Board of Works which were not charged to the English Board of Works. He would also suggest that there should be some rearrangement of the Votes by which all the Votes should be put into one class. Irish Members had at present to get five or six volumes and lug them into the House in order to be prepared for a Vote when it was put from the Chair. He noticed a very large charge, amounting to £12,000, for the Belfast Parcel Office. He did not grudge Belfast the money, it was only what its progress entitled that city to, but he wanted to know why other places in Ireland were ignored. Then there was £10,000 for the Killibegs pier. When Irish Members urged the building of piers in various parts of Ireland they were told that the money for piers was all expended, but here was an instance of a fresh pier having been constructed. It was very remarkable that the whole of the half-million voted for Irish railways was spent in a particular quarter of the North, and here was the Board of Works giving £10,000 to be expended in the same district. He wondered whether that had any relation to the fact that the new President of the Board of Works had been the manager of a northern railway. He did not say that this money should not be spent, indeed, he thought every penny of it was required, but he said that other parts of Ireland should receive the same attention. He would also like to know whether the roads through the grounds of the Royal Hospital were still closed to the public. These roads were a great convenience to members of the Bar driving to Kilmainham Court House. They were closed when Lord Wolseley was Commander-in-Chief in Ireland, and he did not know whether the same rule was continued by Lord Roberts, the present Commander-in-Chief. While it was proposed to reduce the number of Judges in Ireland by three, a new court was to be built. There were courts enough already, but it would be a great convenience if the old library could be given to the Bar as a dressing room. As to the River Shannon Works, he approved of them, but he should like to see them rendered profitable to somebody. They could be made to yield handsome revenue with a little extension. At present, though more than £100,000 had been spent, no one derived a shilling from them. The Government sent surveyors to the falls of the Nile, to the Zambesi falls, and to Uganda, to see how the water

power could be utilised; and yet the water power of the Shannon was allowed to run to waste.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER (Belfast, W.) called attention to the incomplete state of the buildings of Queen's College, Belfast, and to the inconvenience caused thereby. He said that the original design was for a long line of buildings; but that design had not been completed, and that there was a gap between the two extremities. The scientific side of the College suffered severely for want of more accommodation. It was useless to expect that the completion should be carried out by private enterprise in Belfast, because the College was in no way controlled by the people of the City. It was unfair to leave the College crippled because the original design of the Government had not been completed.

MR. JOHN DILLON (Mayo, E.) said that he had a Motion on the Paper to reduce the Vote for Queen's College, Belfast. For some years the College had been obtaining large sums for the completion of the scientific buildings. It had been richly endowed by the State, though it was maintained for only a small section of the community, even in Ulster; and it would be most unjust to grant large sums to such an institution, while all assistance was denied to the Colleges which represented the vast majority of the people of Ireland. If the hon. Member wanted more money for the College, let him urge the Government to do justice in the matter of Catholic University Education. There was a scientific college in Dublin, which had been maintained and equipped by the private exertions of the Irish Catholics, and only the other day an appeal for a further £1,000 was issued. They were always hearing that Belfast was the wealthiest and most intelligent part of Ireland; and yet it could not provide for the smallest requirement of its Queen's College. He wished to obtain some information with regard to the grant of £40,000 for the building of National Schools in Ireland. In a question which he had put to the Secretary of the Treasury he had asked for the total amount of the applications now before the Commissioners of National Education or the Board of Works, but the right hon. Gentleman stated that he had no information on the point. It was very important that they should ascertain how many applications had been made for the building of these schools, because he was informed that the managers who wished to erect new schools were subjected to very great delay in obtaining the necessary grants for the purpose. But the right hon. Gentleman had stated that £40,000 had now been fixed upon as the annual sum to be voted for National Schools in Ireland, and without reference to the demands——

*MR. HANBURY: No; that was an arrangement specially made by which £40,000 was paid last year, £40,000 will be paid this year, and £30,000 next year.

MR. DILLON asked was it because the National Commissioners, in their anxiety to meet the demand for schools, had anticipated, as the right hon. Gentleman had stated, the amount of the Vote that they were to get £10,000 less next year, and that a Vote for a fixed sum was decided upon?

*MR. HANBURY said the Commissioners of National Education had agreed to make a certain number of grants, and they wanted £10,000 additional in 1895-6 to carry out that arrangement.

MR. DILLON asked was it the policy of the Government to obstruct and delay the furnishing of these remote districts in Ireland with schools? He had never heard a more extraordinary proposition than that, because the Commissioners had entered into certain arrangements some years ago with regard to the building of schools, and were anxious to redeem that engagement, an artificial limit should be put on the amount to be expended for this purpose, that it should be fixed at £40,000, no matter what the demand of the various districts might be —["hear, hear!"]—and that they were to be fined £10,000 the year after next. He wanted to know on what grounds the Government could justify this policy of obstructing and starving the construction of new schools throughout Ireland? He should have thought that with the record which the Government had behind it in Ireland of hostility to education, that they would be ready to do everything possible to encourage the construction of schools in Ireland. ["Hear, hear!"] From a Return of the Commissioners of National Education, he found that the amount voluntarily subscribed from local sources in Ireland in 1895 for building and for repairs and other improvements was £69,331, and that did not include the Christian Brothers and other schools not connected with the National Board, while the Government grants only amounted to £45,000. In face of the fact that the Government grant amounted to £45,099, he wanted to know why the Government should now draw a hard and fast limit at £40,000? He had intended to draw attention on that Vote to the Board of Works contract, but as that difficulty had been satisfactorily arranged and Dublin firms would be able to secure the contract, he would not say anything then on the subject. With regard to the Vote of £953 for police huts, he found that sum was £100 larger this year than last year. They maintained that 19-20ths of this money was lavished, that this policy tended to stir up disorder and crime, and that not only was there a waste of the money, but a criminal disuse of it. ["Hear, hear!"] The consequence of their reckless encouragement during the last 15 years was to promote discord and strife being worked in a vicious circle. Therefore he thought that unless he got a satisfactory explanation from the Chief Secretary it would be necessary to move a reduction of the Vote in that respect.

MR. ARTHUR O'CONNOR (Donegal, E.) said that whereas the English Votes were under a certain Minister, the Irish Votes were turned over to the gentleman who represented the Treasury. The Board of Works was a kind of an outpost of the Treasury, and he ventured to say that it was an outpost which required more supervision than was supposed. It was very extravagant, and it was badly administered. It was concerned in the handling of the large amount of £270,000 a year. It was the same Vote every year, and so long as it should not increase, it seemed not to matter to the Treasury how the money was spent. Items were continually charged which ought not to be there, year after year. There was a curious illustration of this system of not keeping money that might be saved in hand with regard to the wall of Dundrum Lunatic Asylum. The cost would be only £10,500, and the Board of Works proposed to take nine years in building it. Certain important works were neglected, while the Board was allowed to spend the money on favourite works. He hoped the Secretary to the Treasury would look into this matter, which he was as well qualified to deal with as was his predecessor. The Department was an utterly irresponsible one, and it had put up piers which were a laughing stock. Money was squandered in every direction by this body.

*MR. HANBURY said the hon. Member for Mayo was under some misapprehension when he supposed that they limited the Commissioners as to the number of schools. If he would look through the lists he would see there was a great increase since 1870. Since then, with the exception of '87-8, this was the largest grant that had ever been made. It was held by the Commissioners themselves that instead of having this Vote varying from year to year, they should know what was the amount of money that was to be granted to them. That limit had been very much below what was granted in these three years. The grants in 1891-2, 3 and 4 were £30,000, £30,000, and £28,000; therefore this grant of £40,000 showed a considerable increase. The hon. Member went on to discuss the question of the constabulary huts. These had been reduced from 103 to 87, and those that were kept up were absolutely necessary for the personal protection of persons who were unpopular. Many of the retained huts were used for the constabulary, when the police barracks wanted repairing, and he would rather see the men in houses or barracks than in these huts. The small increase of £80 to £100 in the Vote was due to the removal of the disused huts. As to the references to the expense of the Viceregal Lodge, the alterations were principally of a sanitary nature. Some buildings had been moved and new houses erected elsewhere. The road referred to had been devoted to the general convenience. The hon. Member went on to say something in connection with the Chief Secretary's Lodge. No doubt a few years ago what struck him as a strange arrangement was entered into by which the gardens were practically farmed out, but that arrangement had now ceased, and they were under the Board of Works. With regard to the charge for the glass houses, up to two years ago there was a large amount of glass there in a dilapidated condition. That had now been pulled down, and smaller houses, much less expensive to keep up, built in their place. With regard to the points raised by the hon. Member in connection with the Queen's Colleges, this was not a Vote on which the policy of those colleges could be discussed, and he could only deal with small details. The charge in connection with the Galway College was for the Examination Hall. Hitherto there had been no fireplace in that hall, and this charge was for heating it. He would, however, look into the amount, and see whether it was too large. Then the hon. Member said something as to the erection of the buildings for the Belfast Post Office. All he could say was that if the hon. Member or any other Member would at any time inform him of any suspicion they might entertain that anything was being badly done in connection with any Government contract, he would always inquire into it. He did not think it was fair to denounce the system generally without some special ground for attacking it. Government contracts were now being a great deal more rigorously looked into. The hon. Member also complained of the alterations being made at the Custom House in Dublin. So far as his information went, it was that certain arches were simply being glazed in for the purpose of giving greater accommodation, but if the hon. Member could show that they were being bricked in he would inquire into the matter, and see what was really being done. He thought he ought to say on behalf of the permanent officials of the Board of Works that some of the language used by the hon. Member was hardly fair. Whether the hon. Member agreed with the system of the permanent Civil Service or not, he would admit that both in England and Ireland the country was, on the whole, very faithfully served. With regard to the Post Office in Dublin, great alterations were being made during this year, but the hon. Member's chief complaint was that they were taking place in rooms which were dark and approached by narrow and dangerous passages. He understood that the hon. Member himself had suffered from the darkness of these passages, and that fact would afford him additional inducement to look into the matter. Then a question was raised as to certain works of art in the Custom House. If there were valuable works of art there, special care should be taken of them, and it would probably be possible to get the advice of the Director of the National Gallery as to their value. The hon. Member for Longford raised an important question as to the variety of subjects put upon this Vote, many of which were not for purely Irish purposes. The Vote did not profess to draw a distinction between Irish and Imperial purposes. That question had come into greater prominence since the Vote was originally framed, and he did not think it would be advisable to rearrange the Votes so as to group all the Irish Votes together.

MR. T. M. HEALY: Why is this Vote in a different class to the English Board of Works Vote?

*MR. HANBURY admitted there were a certain number of subjects in this Vote which found no parallel in the English Office of Works Vote, and the hon. Member mentioned in particular the Coastguard. He had often thought himself that that was hardly an item which ought to appear on this Vote, but, after all, the question of how far that ought to be charged against Ireland was one that would have to be inquired into by the Commission about to inquire into the financial relations of the two countries. At the same time, he agreed to a great extent that it did not tend to economy tc have the Votes connected with any one Department not confined to the nominal Votes for that Department, but scattered over other Departments. He would see how far it was possible to alter that. As to the new Post Office at Dundalk, he would be glad to give a reply when the Post Office Vote came on. He would be out of order in discussing the matter on this Vote, because it was a question of site. As to the pier at Killybegs, it was one of the first built on a somewhat new principle. It was built of wood instead of stone, and he hoped it would be more successful than several piers he had himself seen in Ireland. This pier had, he believed, been built well within the estimate.

MR. T. M. HEALY: Will the right hon. Gentleman say why this particular district was selected for a pier?

MR. DAVITT: Is it not the fact that the people of the district have been petitioning for the pier for years?

MR. MACNEILL: Has not the pier been promised for some years?

*MR. HANBURY said that no doubt considerable pressure had been put on the Government to build the pier. It would be managed by the Board of Commissioners, one named by the railway company, one or two by the Congested Districts Board, one by the Government, and one by the locality. It would be a Board of four or five. Attention had been drawn to an item of £600 for a new Law Court in Dublin. This sum, he was glad to say, would not be spent in that way. It would be "hung up" and eventually spent in Dublin on something more useful. He had communicated with the Lord Chancellor of Ireland on the subject, and the noble and learned Lord agreed with him that as a reduction was being made in the number of Judges the money need not be spent on a new Law Court. The increase in the ordinary charge was due to the fact that extra repairs and painting had to be done this year. The contention that the Government ought to set aside more money for the extension of the college buildings in Belfast he met by pointing out that £8,000 had already been expended in that way, and that it was necessary to hold the scales evenly, and to be fair to the Queen's colleges in other cities. The hon. Member for East Donegal had spoken about the control of the Treasury over the expenditure of the Board of Works in Dublin, and he implied that the Treasury had not sufficient control. All he could say was that he had himself gone over every item in these Estimates. The hon. Member had evidently in his mind certain items which he thought ought not to be continued from year to year. He should be glad if the hon. Member would communicate with him privately on the subject and point out what items ought in the hon. Member's opinion to be discontinued. He agreed with the hon. Member who said that works like the wall near Dundrum Asylum ought not to be spread over too long a time, but ought to be finished as soon as possible. It had been found out in connection with the Navy that it was a most extravagant system to allow work to be spread over a great number of years, and the practice was equally extravagant in civil matters. He also agreed with the hon. Member that when a saving on one subhead was proposed to be appropriated to another the operation ought to be scrutinised most carefully by the watchful eye of the Treasury. The suggestion that the water power of the Shannon should be turned to good use was a very practical one. Water power was one of the chief resources of Ireland, and the Board of Works ought to utilise it as far as they could. He would have the matter inquired into.

MR. W. JOHNSTON (Belfast, S.) wished to impress upon the right hon. Gentleman the necessity of doing something more for Queen's College, Belfast. The report of the President of the College showed that additional buildings were urgently required. He took that opportunity to record the kindness of Sir John Hibbert when he was at the Treasury. Sir John Hibbert then devoted much attention to the needs of the college at Belfast, and met the representations of the President in a cordial manner. He hoped that the present Secretary to the Treasury would reconsider his intention not to provide further funds for the structural improvement of Queen's College, Belfast.

MR. DALY (Monaghan, S.) drew attention to the items for the Divisional Commissioners' Office, and argued that it ought to disappear from the Estimates. In the North of Ireland one Divisional Commissioner was responsible for large expenses in connection with extra police. He had hoped that the Divisional Commissioners' Office would have been abolished before this. He, therefore, observed with great disappointment that the office not only continued to exist, but that the item relating to it had increased by £25. Crime it was well known was largely decreasing in Ireland, and the function of the Divisional Commissioners' Office was to prevent crime. Why should the expenses of the office increase at a time when crime was decreasing? He had to complain of the maintenance of a police hut in a part of South Monaghan where there was neither crime nor disorder. There had not been any criminal cases at assizes or quarter sessions for a long period of time, and the Attorney General for Ireland had in consequence actually brought in a Bill to relieve jurors from the annoyance of being summoned to attend court when there were no duties for them to perform. Was it not disgraceful in these circumstances that this hut, which was a stigma on the locality, should still be maintained. The hut, he believed, was maintained at the suggestion of the Earl of Dartrey and his agent, who was working in the interests of a number of Irish landlords. As to the decreased item for teachers' residences, he read a Resolution passed at a Teachers' Congress in Galway, asking that the Vote should be increased and not reduced. But instead of giving effect to this recommendation the Vote had been reduced by £109. This was the way in which almost every Government managed Irish affairs.

MR. P. J. POWER (Waterford, E.) referred to the item of £10,000, and said that the South coast of Ireland was greatly in need of harbour accommodation. The Government had been well advised in making this expenditure, and he should like to see it extended elsewhere. The harbour accommodation was so bad in many parts that it was absolutely impossible for the fishermen to keep proper boats and go to sea. The grounds were being fished by the boats from Cornwall and the Isle of Man. He should like to know whether there was any money available for this most useful work.

MR. HANBURY said that the question of policy could not be raised on this Vote. These piers had to be recommended to the Irish Office, then they came before the Treasury, and afterwards the Irish Board of Works had to build them. There was no fund specially available for this purpose; and the case of Killybegs was a very exceptional one. There was no police hut being used in Monaghan. The hut to which reference had been made had taken the place of the police barracks, and was used for the ordinary purposes of the police. As to the teachers' residences, this Vote had reference only to the repair of the residences which had been built. There had been no change of policy and no stinting of expenditure in any way. The question of Divisional Commissioners did not arise on this Vote.

MR. DALY: Then why is it on the Vote?

MR. DILLON moved the reduction of the Vote by £150 in respect of the grant to Queen's College, Belfast. He felt bound to resist any proposal to grant money to these colleges until justice was done to the Roman Catholic colleges. This Vote contained items of £100 for a boundary wall and railing at Queen's College, Belfast, £40 for the Examination Hall, £591 for the Cork College, £1,715 for the Belfast College, and £599 for Galway College. If the Government had in reply to his Question said specifically that they would introduce a Measure this Session, or make it the first business next Session, to remove this monstrous grievance of the Roman Catholics in Ireland with regard to their colleges, he would withdraw his opposition. As, however, the Government had declined to do this, as they were continuing the system of admitting the grievance while declining to state that justice would be done; he asked for a definite pledge as to the time when they would address themselves to the remedying of this grievance, and until that was forthcoming he would oppose every Vote for the Queen's Colleges in Ireland.

Mr. MACNEILL supported the reduction of the Vote. He acknowledged the friendly and conciliatory way in which the right hon. Gentleman had met him and his hon. Friends; but they must oppose every farthing proposed to be expended on institutions which obtained advantages refused to other sections of the community. When the First Lord of the Treasury was Chief Secretary he wrote a letter dated December 2, 1889, in which he stated that he had not the face to apply to Parliament for any grant to the Queen's Colleges of Belfast, however estimable the object for which the grant might be, as long as educational advantages were denied to the great mass of the Irish people. He might mention simply as a matter of interest, that the sum for which the Presbyterians of Belfast were clamouring in 1889, was granted eventually.

*The CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS reminded the hon. Member that a Vote dealing with Queen's College, Belfast, would come before the Committee presently, and that, he thought, would be the proper time to raise the question he was discussing.

Mr. MACNEILL said he had fully expressed his views in reference to Queen's College, and he should not dream of occupying the time of the Committee by repeating his arguments. So long as a Catholic University was denied, to Ireland, he and his friends would oppose every proposal to increase the expenditure on Queen's College, Belfast, even by a single farthing.

Mr. T. P. O'CONNOR (Liverpool, Scotland) said he should be obliged to go into the same Lobby with his hon. Friend who had moved the reduction of the Vote, though, as an old student of Queen's College, he could not be supposed to enter the lobby with quite the same feelings as his hon. Friend. What he wished to strongly impress on the Government was this:—The Queen's Colleges were founded partly with a worthy idea, partly with an unworthy. The idea of Peel and other Statesmen who were responsible for founding this scheme of education in Ireland was that, by bringing together men of different creeds, they would somewhat assuage the religious bitterness that divided people of different communions in that country. He could fully respect that view and object. On the other hand, a large number of persons undoubtedly aided in establishing this system in order to use it as a weapon against the Catholic religion.

*The CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS: The hon. Member is now clearly arguing the question that arises on Vote 14, Clause 4, which will raise the question of the general position of Queen's College. The only question before the Committee now is the grant for boundary wall and railings.

Mr. T. P. O'CONNOR: I understood the question had been discussed by previous speakers; but I am quite willing to postpone what I have to say.

Question put, "That Item B be reduced by £100 in respect of the Charge for the Boundary Wall and Railing in the Queen's College, Belfast.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 70; Noes, 224.—(Division List, No. 264.)

Original Question put, and agreed to.

2. £19,928, to complete the sum for Railways, Ireland.

Mr. DILLON asked if it would be in order on this Vote to raise any question as to the fares charged and the treatment of the public on light railways.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS thought not, as the fares must have been settled by the various Acts of Parliament passed when the lines were first constructed.

MR. DILLON said that was not so. The fares, as he understood, were settled by the companies who worked the lines. There were some questions which he should like to raise of considerable importance as to the treatment of the people on lines which were worked by agreement with the main Irish lines. He hoped there would be a subsequent opportunity of raising the question.

MR. T. M. HEALY asked when a statement would be made on behalf of the Government with regard to the expenditure of half a million last year for the Irish railways.

*MR. HANBURY replied that the statement could be made on the Board of Works Vote, which would be brought on next Firday.

Vote agreed to.

CLASS IV.

Motion made, and Question proposed:

3. "That a sum, not exceeding £630,291, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1898, for the expenses of the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland."

MR. T. M. HEALY remarked that there had been considerable complaint as to the action of the Government respecting the arrears due to the Teachers' Pension Fund.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central) understood that there had been an arrangement that this discussion as to the claim for arrears should be taken on the Vote for the sum in aid of the Teachers' Pension Fund.

MR. DILLON thought it would be impossible to allow the Vote to pass without some discussion of the matter, especially as a large part of the Report of the Education Commissioners was devoted to the whole controversy on this question of arrears.

MR. T. M. HEALY considered that if the Chief Secretary assured them the matter could be discussed on the Friday following in accordance with some arrangement, the next week would suffice for the discussion as well as this.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR would not say there was a definite arrangement, but there was some conversation between the Secretary to the Treasury and the hon. Member for East Mayo, as a result of which he understood that it was generally recognised that the most convenient occasion for discussing all questions in connection with the Pension Fund would be when the Vote came on for the money in aid of that fund.

*MR. HANBURY explained that the hon. Member for East Mayo came to consult him about the order of the Votes, and he told the hon. Gentleman that he did not think they should be able to bring on the matter in connection with the Education Vote, but that the Government would agree that the Education Vote should be taken, leaving the question of the arrears until the Vote for the sum in aid of the Pension Fund was brought on, which might be on the following Friday. The hon. Member promised to see him later on, but the opportunity did not arise. The impression left on his mind was that the hon. Gentleman had undertaken, so far as he was concerned, that he would not raise the question of the Teachers' Pension Fund on this Vote, but that he was only anxious to raise those questions which could ordinarily be raised in connection with the present Vote.

MR. DILLON said the right hon. Gentleman had somewhat misapprehended the matter. When the right hon. Gentleman spoke to him he told him that the Government had some difficulty about taking the Education Vote, as the Supplementary Papers relating to the teachers' pension had not been circulated. He then asked the right hon. Gentleman would it not be possible on the Education Vote to state the policy of the Government, although the Estimates had not been circulated. The reply was yes, but the Irish Members might complain of the Education Vote being brought on before the additional Estimates for the teachers' pensions were printed and circulated. He then told the right hon. Gentleman that he would submit that for the consideration of the teachers themselves, and he himself would be largely guided by their convenience. The right hon. Gentleman distinctly stated it would be possible for the Government to expound their policy on the teachers' pension question in the course of the Debate, and on those conditions he told the Secretary to the Treasury that the Irish Members for whom he spoke would waive the question of the Supplementary Estimates not having been circulated. He gave no hint that they should not raise the question of the condition of the Teachers' Pension Fund in this Debate, which he considered of importance.

MR. T. M. HEALY thought it was immaterial whether they took the discussion of the Pension Fund now or next week. He desired to call attention to the position of the Model Schools in Ireland, as to which the Government ought certainly to be expected to make some statement. It was rather unfortunate that although the attention of the Chief Secretary had been directed to the matter by no fewer than six Questions, the Departmental Committee had not been pressed to make their Report, and hon. Members were still without information as to the policy of the Government upon the subject. The Vote had previously been prefaced by a laudatory paragraph stating that the extra expenditure under the Vote was due to the exceptional character of the education given in the model schools. That paragraph had been altogether omitted from the present Vote. What was the reason for the omission—that the convent schools of Ireland, which did not receive a third of the Vote for the model schools, turned out pupils who took higher prizes and passed better examinations than those in the model schools. A Departmental Commission had the matter under consideration, and he expressed his sorrow at the death of the Protestant Archbishop of Dublin, who took a sensible view of this question, and the loss the country had sustained on the National Board by his death and by the resignation of Lord Justice Fitzgibbon. That Lord Justice Fitzgibbon should have been allowed to resign without an expression of regret for the services he had rendered to education from his particular point of view was more than he could understand. The remaining Protestants had assented to the appointment of a Departmental Committee, and he was told that the revelations from an educationist point of view would involve the sweeping away or entire rearrangement of the system. Whichever way England ruled Ireland he should have thought John Bull would have insisted on getting value for his money. But he did not get it. In three of the provinces in Ireland practically no Catholic would attend the model schools, and in Limerick an absolute inhibition was laid on the attendance of Catholics. Protestants had valuable foundations in the South of Ireland, and these model schools were kept up in the interests of a minority of the minority; the general body of the people had neither part nor lot in them, and the Government did not get from them fair and reasonable educational results. The Government had notice that the schools would be discussed on the Vote, and the report of the Committee, or the evidence as far as it had been taken, should have been presented. They had neither, and were groping in the dark as to what was the view of the Committee. The Government should have pressed the Committee for an *ad interim* report or supplied the evidence already taken, so that they might pass on the subject before the Vote was taken. He hoped the Chief Secretary would postpone the Vote until the House had the report. Why should the House of Commons be asked to vote money for an effete system which was turning out results in no way commensurate with the enormous sums expended upon it. He moved the reduction of the Vote by £4,000, which, he said, practically represented the items for the model schools.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR replied that the attention of the Committee had been called to the undoubted fact of the great expense of the model schools. It was only lately that the Committee had begun their investigation, and the laudatory paragraph to which the hon. and learned Member had alluded was omitted because it would be obviously absurd, when an investigation was going on into the position of the schools and the system under which they were carried on, to preface the Vote with a laudatory paragraph concerning them. The matter being *sub judice*, it naturally followed that the laudatory paragraph should be omitted. The hon. Member said the Government should have insisted on an interim report. But when a Government appointed a Commission or Committee of Inquiry on any subject, it could not insist on its reporting by a given date. The result might be that the investigation would be inadequate and incomplete. The Commissioners had undertaken to report, and, no doubt, would present their report as soon as it was ready. The Government, and previous Governments, had been painfully aware of the great cost of model schools, and had urged that some steps should be taken to reduce it. When the Government had the Report of the Commissioners, they would be able to decide what steps they would take. Before they had that Report it would be premature to act. The hon. Member thought the Vote might be omitted this year. That could not be done in any case, because if the Commissioners reported that the systems under which the model schools were carried on required alteration, anything done would have to be done in a future financial year, and not in the present. He regretted as much as the hon. and learned Member that the Committee were not in a position to discuss the matter with that full information before them which the Commissioners would eventually supply. It would be idle for the Government to come to a conclusion on the matter now, and all he could say was that it would have careful attention.

Mr. T. M. HEALY asked did the right hon. Gentleman throw the blame upon the National Board? His questions were three months old, and in those questions he pressed for the Report as a necessity. Did the Chief Secretary throw the blame for the delay on the Commissioners?

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR said he threw blame on nobody, all he said was that it was not the fault of the Government. The Government were not in a position to bring pressure to bear, and he did not know that the Commissioners were in a position to report.

Mr. T. M. HEALY said that he, as a protest against these non-Christian schools, which cost twice as much as Christian schools, giving but half the results, would take a Division against the Vote, trusting, however, if he interpreted the statement of the right hon. Gentleman rightly, that by next year,

after he had received the Report from the Commissioners, should it disclose, as it must disclose, for the facts were undeniable, the state of things he had indicated, the Government would be prepared for a root-and-branch reform, and would not say there was no time to deal with the subject. There was no time apparently for dealing with any Irish reform, though for English reforms time and money were always available.

Mr. DALY said his hon. and learned Friend had rightly said there was too much favouritism shown towards these schools. Taking an instance of two teachers, the one in a model school, the other in a national school; the first-mentioned assistant received £10 in annual salary more than the national school assistant teacher, though they performed the same work. The model school teachers were made the pets of the Department, but simply because the national school teachers came from the class of the majority of the people of Ireland, they, for performing the same work, were paid lower salaries. He commended this to the attention of the Chief Secretary, assuring him that the subject would not be allowed to rest, but by questions and all other means attention would be drawn to it until national school assistant teachers were raised to the same level of pay as the model school assistant teachers. The right hon. Gentleman misinterpreted the question put to him earlier in the day, suggesting that it was proposed to bring down the salaries of the model school teachers to the level of those paid to national school teachers. That was not his meaning. He desired to have the national school salaries raised. It was to be hoped the right hon. Gentleman would see his way to make up the difference in salary, for it was most unfair that the class of teachers drawn from the Catholic majority of the people of Ireland should be paid at a lower rate than the teachers representing the Protestant minority in the model schools.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR said this was one of the many questions the Commissioners would have to investigate. He did not misunderstand the purport of the hon. Member's question, though it would seem the hon. Gentleman had misunderstood the answer given. Of course, he understood the hon. Member desired that the level of the pay should be raised. The discussion now raised depended on the greater cost of the model schools as compared with other schools. The course suggested by the hon. Member would not tend to economy, but the reverse.

Question put, "That Item D (Model Schools) be reduced by £4,000."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 42; Noes, 160.—(Division List, No. 265.)

Mr. DILLON called attention to the arrears of the fee grant. The Report of the Board of National Education in Ireland showed that a very large sum of money, estimated at £72,477, was in arrear. Of that sum a small amount had, since the discussion had arisen, been paid, but there was still a sum of about £70,000 unpaid. These sums, if they had been paid, would have gone, not to the Teachers' Pension Fund, but direct into the pocket of the teachers, and the result, therefore, had been to take from these poor people a portion of the salary to which they were entitled. The question had passed through several stages. For a long time the Government resisted the claim to the payment of these arrears. Then they admitted the claim, but maintained that it was a matter of past history, and that they were only bound to see that in the future no similar injustice was done. But in July last year the Chancellor of the Exchequer made a speech in which he admitted that there was an injustice—that these arrears had been unjustly withheld from the teachers, and that the Government was under an obligation. But the right hon. Gentleman said that by making an additional grant to the Teachers' Pension Fund, which was alleged to be in an insolvent position, the Government had adopted the only practical means of remedying the injustice. He denied that proposition. This question ought to be treated on its merits, and apart from the question of the Pension Fund whether that fund was absolutely solvent or not. The right hon. Gentleman said it was impossible to distribute the arrears amongst the teachers on account of the changes which had taken place, but he ventured to say that if this sum was distributed amongst the teachers as closely as possible as if it had been paid when it originally fell due, it would be satisfactory. The teachers of Ireland were not prepared to accept an additional grant to the Pension Fund as a compensation for their losses from the withholding of the arrears of the fee grant. This question should be dealt with as a separate question, and he protested against its being mixed up with the question of the Pension Fund. The trouble about the Pension Fund had arisen, not from any fault of the teachers of Ireland, but owing to the expert accounts of the Government. So long as the teachers did what they were required to do by the rules, the Act of 1879 gave them the promise of a pension, and the teachers had in no way failed to comply with the rules. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had said that the arrears of the fee grant ought to have been paid to the teachers.

*The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER (Sir Michael Hicks Beach, Bristol, W.): I never admitted that.

Mr. DILLON: You admitted that an injustice was done.

*The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER: I admitted that there was a debt to Irish education on that account, but not to individual teachers.

Mr. DILLON said if the money had been paid when it was due it would have gone into the pockets of the teachers, and he thought the Government were bound to deal with the question on its merits. On the other hand they found out that under the Act of 1879 the Government had contracted certain obligations towards the Irish teachers which, he maintained, they would be bound to discharge even if this deficiency had never arisen, and in order to save the British Treasury £70,000, they made a desperate effort to mix up the two questions. He protested against that. The two questions ought to be treated separately. The teachers held that the Government were bound to make good the deficiency of the Pension Fund, which had arisen entirely from the mistakes of their accountants, and not from any fault of the teachers, and the question of the arrears of fee grant had to be dealt with quite apart and as a separate matter. There was one other matter to which he wished to allude. That was the question of the position of the Irish language in the national system of education. There was no doubt whatever that the national system of education was in its original conception and for a long period of years an anti-national system. He was glad to believe that a considerable change had come over the system of late years. They had not so much ground of complaint in some respects, but as regarded fairplay being given to the Irish language they still had great ground of complaint. The Irish language was not treated in Ireland as the Welsh language was treated in Wales, and, judging from the speeches of the Chief Secretary when this subject was raised last year, the right hon. Gentleman seemed to be still possessed of the idea that the best thing that could happen to the Irish people was to forget their own native language altogether. He should like to see every Irishman and Irish woman able to speak English; but he should also like to see them able to speak their own language as well. To his mind it was proved beyond all controversy that the intellectual development and the teaching of the children in the western districts of Ireland were cramped and injured by the fact that the teachers were not properly instructed in the native tongue. A valuable and interesting Report on this subject from the head inspector of the Western District would be found in the Appendix to the last Report of the Commissioners of Irish Education, and this showed that in the County of Galway alone 58 per cent. of the population spoke the Irish tongue. The Report of this inspector ought to attract the attention of the Government, and it ought to be the object of the Education Department in Ireland to secure that in every district where a considerable portion of the children spoke the Irish tongue, the teacher ought to be an Irish-speaking man, and able to address the children in the native tongue. That, of course, would remove the ban which had been placed on the Irish language by successive administrations. This was a subject which was increasing in interest year by year, and a movement had arisen, and was rapidly growing, which would require of the Government that the native tongue of the country should be taught to the children in the schools.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER (Belfast, W.) said he had supported the contention of the hon. Member for East Mayo with regard to the Teachers' Pension Fund last year, and he proposed to support it again this year. The two matters which it was proposed to mix up were absolutely different, and it was only the accident of time and not the unity of substance which allowed the Government to bring them together. Two blunders had been made in this case—not by the Irish teacher but by the Government officials. The first was the miscalculation of the Pension Fund, and the second was the misapprehension of what might be the ultimate decision of that House as to the proportion of money which was due to the Irish teachers. He really could hardly understand the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he wished them to believe that this money would not have been appropriated in the form of fee grant to the teachers had the same principle which was now admitted to rule the case been admitted when the money first became due to the Irish people. He thought that really was almost admitted. They were told last Session that it was impossible to correctly allocate this money to the individual teachers, who would have received it in the form of fee grant, because some of them were not now living, or had left the schools in which they were engaged. It was suggested that there was some equity in this matter. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had said that it was a debt due not to the teachers, but to the cause of Irish education at large. He did not see where this equity came in. If that was a debt due to Irish education at large, he thought they would want a great deal clearer proof than they had received that it ought to be applied in the particular form now proposed. It was said that they could not apply this fee grant to individual teachers because some teachers had dropped out of the allocation. The answer to that was that the thing had been done on a considerable scale in the case of the convent schools, to which this money had been granted in the form of a lump sum. No difficult had arisen in this case, for the reason that the convent schools were not within the benefits of the Pension Fund. The thing was therefore practicable, and could be done, because it had been done. They were told that it was an equivalent, giving it to the Pension Fund, which would go to the general body of teachers, and that they ought to be satisfied with that. He did not think they ought to be satisfied. It was perfectly true, as said by the hon. Member for East Mayo, that these two matters were separate, and that if this Pension Fund had never been miscalculated there would have been no suggestion of applying this fund in the way which was now proposed. He contended this was not a proper compensation under any circumstances, even if it were a legitimate form of compensation to the general body of teachers. There were a considerable number of teachers who were not subscribers to the Pension Fund. What benefit would those teachers get from the proposed allocation of the £72,000. Even supposing that the Pension Fund, when distributed, reached the teachers, the application of the money would be leased on an entirely wrong principle—that was to say, teachers who should receive a larger benefit would receive a smaller benefit, and teachers who should receive a smaller benefit would receive a larger benefit. There were many third-class teachers controlling large schools; there were cases of first-class teachers directing small schools. The third-class teachers in the large schools having been made recipients of the fee grant would obtain results in fees coresponding to the number of their pupils; but as third-class teachers they were entitled to merely a third-class share of the pension. On the other hand, the first-class teacher in the small school would obtain a minute share of the fee grant, but they would receive a large share of the pension. He could not be persuaded that the proposed arrangement was anything more than a makeshift, by which the Government were endeavouring to get out of a blunder. The teachers had undoubtedly earned the money, and by every right they were entitled to receive it. Therefore he would support the hon. Member for East Mayo, as he had supported the hon. Member for Londonderry on a former occasion.

Mr. Serjeant HEMPHILL (Tyrone, N.) said there was no answer to the case put forward by the hon. Member for East Mayo and the hon. Member for Belfast. By some mistake at the Treasury, for which the National teachers were in no way responsible, a sum of something like £72,450, which ought to reach their pockets, did not do so. If it was an ordinary case between an employer and the employed, and if it turned out that the employed were underpaid, what any honest firm would do would be to refund the money. He thought they should altogether disregard the argument of impracticability upon what was a matter of simple common justice. What was the argument of the Chancellor of the Exchequer? He said: We will apply this money to make up further deficiency occasioned by some other blunder.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: The right hon. Gentleman is mistaken in the figures. £95,000 has already been voted in respect to those so-called arrears, and is to be applied at the rate of £10,000 a year to the Pension Fund.

Mr. Serjeant HEMPHILL: Will that £10,000 a year in any way come out of the arrears?

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: No, Sir. £95,000 has already been voted, and the Government, in addition to that, propose to give £10,000.

Mr. Serjeant HEMPHILL said, of course it was not necessary for him to go into that subject, and he would not do so, but he asked the Government to do justice to a poor but most worthy class—the National teachers of Ireland.

Mr. J. C. FLYNN (Cork, N.) did not think the Chief Secretary was justified in referring to the arrears as alleged arrears.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: So-called arrears.

Mr. FLYNN said the arrears were not "so-called" or "alleged" arrears, but were actual arrears. The conduct of the Treasury in the matter would, in a commercial transaction between private individuals, be condemned as shabby, as dishonest, and as downright fraudulent. The Chief Secretary did not represent the Treasury, which had its own separate champions in the House. The Chief Secretary was the official representative of Ireland in the House, and it was his duty to defend the rights of all classes in Ireland. The right hon. Gentleman had not done that in the present instance. It was utterly wrong to mix up the questions of arrears and of pension. He had no doubt that their English and Scotch friends in search of the truth would imagine that the Pension Fund was originally founded in the generosity of the Treasury. As a matter of fact, it was founded upon a capital sum of £1,300,000, which was a portion of the Irish Church surplus. Could there be anything more intolerable than the cant the Treasury indulged in in respect to this matter? A certain number of teachers did not accept the pension scheme, but in 1885, six years after it was started, a valuation of the fund was published as a Parliamentary Paper, which showed that there was a surplus of £196,000. Presumably the fund was based upon an actuarial calculation, and yet now it was declared that the fund was insolvent. Where was the proof of the insolvency? There was not a tittle of proof. It was quite possible that the fund was insolvent through some mistake or fault in the calculation, but if there had been a mistake or fault it rested with the Treasury. He protested against a hard worked and underpaid class of men, a class who, next to the ministers of religion, performed the most valuable functions to the community, being mulcted in order to recoup a loss incurred by the Treasury of this great and wealthy Empire.

Mr. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny) associated himself with his colleagues in supporting the just claims of the national teachers of Ireland. The treatment which was being meted out to those men was, however, only a part and parcel of the general treatment Ireland received from the British Treasury. The Treasury were always ready, by fair or by foul means, to seize all the Irish money they could. If there was any doubt about the fund, the teachers might be given the benefit of it. Certainly if there was any doubt about any fund in which the Royal Irish Constabulary were concerned, that body would be given the benefit of it, but then it was quite evident the Government relied more upon the Constabulary than upon the teachers. He trusted the Irish people would take note of this plundering policy on the part of the Treasury.

Mr. DALY hoped the Chief Secretary would explain what he meant by arrears.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR admitted that the phrase he used was not a very happily chosen one. He meant that it ought not to be taken for granted that this money should go to the teachers as such.

Mr. DALY said it would be difficult to get over the fact that the national teachers of Ireland had been plundered or robbed of close upon £100,000. It made no difference to him by what Government the mistake had been made; if it had been made he should protest to the utmost against the teachers being made the sufferers. It was impossible to conceive a more dishonest act on the part of a Government than this attempt to deprive the teachers of pensions. The Chief Secretary seemed to think that the teachers did not know their own business, but he had been furnished with copies of resolutions passed by the Carrickmacross teachers in which formal protest was made against the action of the Government on the ground that it would not only prejudicially affect the monetary interest of teachers, but tend to the employment of an inferior class of men. The refusal of the Government to pay the teachers this £100,000 was simply an attempt to shirk their just debts. It was a most extraordinary demand that was made by the Government—that the teachers, who for 20 or 30 years had been contributing to the fund, should now increase their contributions for the benefit of those who came after them—who had not yet joined the service. Supposing the Chief Secretary's salary were in arrears when he came to leave office; would he think justice was done if those arrears were paid to his successor? [*Laughter.*] There could be no defence for this attitude on the part of the Government, and the only thing for them to do was to "fork out." [*Laughter.*] it was no good being select in his language, because the Government had not been over select in their conduct. [*Laughter.*]

[After the usual interval, Mr. Grant Lawson took the Chair.]

*Sir JAMES HASLETT (Belfast, N.) whose opening remarks were interrupted by an unsuccessful attempt to count out the House, said there was strong dissatisfaction among the national school teachers about the amount of arrears due to them. It was most desirable that the

Government should make a clear statement to their officials so that the dissatisfaction might be removed. There was the statement that the amount of arrears was £100,000, and it had been hinted that this sum was voted for education purposes and need not go to individual teachers. They were entitled to know from the heads of the Government whether it was to be applied to the teachers directly or indirectly. The indirect application appeared to be in the augmentation of the Pension Fund. The Pension Fund partook to a large extent of an insurance. The Government asked for that insurance under an Act of Parliament in 1879, and they stipulated for the amount of the premium to be paid by each teacher. If that amount had been found to be insufficient and the insurance principle under the Act could be proved to be a mutual principle, then it would be fair and reasonable for the teachers to look to the fact that in the past they had paid a smaller premium, and that premium might be augmented, or the ultimate sum to be obtained from the insurance might be diminished. If such an error had been made it behoved the House to ascertain clearly where it rested, and the nation should bear the responsibility for its officials' mistake. Or if it were proved that there was a mutuality, then each party should bear its share, and the entire amount should not be made up out of the emoluments that should have gone to the teachers. The Government should place clearly before the intelligent body of teachers the exact position in which the case stood. If anything was coming to the teachers out of the arrear fund, let them know it at once. His own impression was that the statement that the sum in question was being applied to the Pension Fund amounted practically to giving the case away, because if it was applicable to the teachers it should go to them direct; and if not, why give it to the teachers' fund? He earnestly asked the Government to place the case before the country so that the teachers would be able to grasp the question. It was purely one of finance, and could be dealt with mathematically. It was not a political or a party question. He believed there was no class of men who would accept the position more readily if it was clearly put before them than the teachers of Ireland. ["Hear, hear!"]

Mr. DALY urged that they ought to have a reply from the Chief Secretary.

*The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said it appeared to him that one of the questions that had been raised on this Vote—namely, the arrangement with regard to the payment of the arrears of the fee grant to the Irish Teachers' Pensions' Fund, would be far more appropriately raised on the Pension Vote. He had not anticipated that this question would be raised on the Vote for Education, with which it had nothing in the world to do. Not one single penny of these arrears had been or could be included in that Vote, and therefore if he detained the House for a few minutes on the matter it was solely from a desire to show courtesy to hon. Members opposite. What happened in regard to this fee grant last year would be fresh in the minds of hon. Members. For some time there was a dispute between the Treasury on the one hand and the National Board of Education on the other hand. It had been found absolutely impracticable to work the system of equivalent grants in connection with the fee grant for Irish and Scotch education. It was found that it could not be calculated how much was due on the basis of an equivalent grant to Ireland and Scotland on account of the fee grant, because no one could tell until after the expiration of the financial year what amount would be paid to England within the financial year for that purpose; and therefore any calculation founded on the basis of the total sum paid to England could not be arrived at in time to give effect to it by Parliament. Therefore, about 18 months ago, having taken the opinion of the Law Officers of the Crown, he felt it his duty to propose another basis instead of the equivalent grant—namely, that all three countries should have 10s. per child in average attendance in their schools as a fee grant. That system was adopted, and adopted, he might say, with general assent; but what was said was this, that there had been a failure in previous years to pay what Ireland and Scotland were entitled to under this head, and that that should be made up. He went into the matter and it was debated at considerable length last year. He said that he considered it a debt to Ireland and Scotland, and with regard to both countries he undertook to make the arrears good. The Treasury had some discussion with the National Board of Education as to the manner in which it should be done. It was urged, and not unfairly, that it was not fair to Ireland and Scotland to adopt one system at the commencement of the Act and to change it for another system which might be less favourable to those countries in the future. Therefore, the Treasury agreed to pay to Ireland and Scotland the amount they would have received if 10s. per child had been given in all three countries from the commencement of the Act. Towards the commencement of this Session an arrangement was arrived at which received the full assent of the National Board of Education, who had stood up for the rights of Ireland as stoutly as any body of men could possibly do. It was that a sum amounting to £108,000 in all should be devoted to the purpose, a small portion of which, he thought about £12,000, was to be applied to convent schools, and the remainder, £95,400, to the Irish Teachers' Pension Fund. The Irish National Board, he believed, unanimously resolved that, having regard to the position of the Irish Pension Fund, which was practically bankrupt, this was a satisfactory settlement both on the question of the fee grant and on the question of the Pension Fund. Acting on that, last February his right hon. Friend the Secretary to the Treasury obtained a Vote from the House of the amount he had named, to be devoted to the two purposes he had stated. He would say in passing that it was proposed to give the smaller sum to the Irish convent schools, because with them there was no question of a grant to the teachers. It was a question of a grant to the institutions. Therefore there was no difficulty in allocating the amount to convent schools, the teachers in which would receive no benefit whatever from the Irish Teachers' Pensions' Fund. A sum of nearly £96,000 was voted by the House in aid of the Teachers' Pensions' Fund after very little, if any, discussion. Hon. Members now said that the national teachers had thereby been deprived of what they ought to receive. But when the Vote was before the House no objection whatever was taken to it upon that ground. The matter was then considered to have been settled. It was impossible to allocate these arrears to the teachers who might have received them if the money had been voted previously, for years had passed and teachers had changed their schools and their positions. It could not be denied that the purpose for which this money was given was a purpose which was advantageous to the Irish teacher. It was notorious that the National Teachers' Pension Fund was bankrupt, and that unless it was largely supplemented it could not possibly defray the claims made upon it. By hon. Members opposite it was contended that this was purely a matter of Treasury concern, that if the fund was bankrupt it was the fault of the Treasury, and that any deficit ought to be made good by that Department. He would ask hon. Members to consider the history of this matter. The Irish National Teachers' Pension Act of 1879 granted to the National Teachers of Ireland a boon which had never been granted to the teachers of England or Scotland. The Act instituted a pension fund constituted in the first place by a fixed sum of £1,300,000 out of the surplus of the Irish Church Revenues. That was to form a nucleus of the fund, and the teachers were then to subscribe by certain annual payments what was calculated to amount to one-fourth of the benefit they would derive. There were arrangements in the Act for temporary advances to be made by the National Debt Commissioners until the payment of this £1,300,000 by the Irish Church Commissioners, and the seventh Clause of the Measure dealt exclusively with those arrangements. The clause only protected the National Debt Commissioners in respect of any such advances which they might make pending the allocation by the Irish Church Commissioners of this sum of £1,300,000. There was absolutely no obligation thrown by this Act upon the Treasury to make the pension fund good after the £1,300,000 had been paid. But it was contended by hon. Members opposite that there was a moral obligation upon the Treasury in consequence of the fault of an actuary, or rather in consequence of the failure of the calculations of an actuary to prove correct. It was provided that there should be a quinquennial valuation of the assets of this fund in order to ascertain its solvency, and it was clear from the wording of the Act, which laid down certain rules in the schedule under which teachers would be entitled to pensions and under which their contributions were to be regulated, and provided that such rules might be revoked or varied from time to time by the Lord Lieutenant and the Treasury, that the intention of the Act was that this fixed sum of £1,300,000 should be the nucleus of the pension fund, but that if it should prove insufficient the amount required would have to be made up by increased contributions on the part of the teachers. [Serjeant HEMPHILL: "Has the £1,300,000 been advanced?"] Cerainly. A valuation was made in 1885, and appeared to show a surplus of £100,000, and, in consequence, the rules in the Schedule of the Act were revised for the benefit of the teachers. The teachers, therefore, as far as their contributions were concerned, had been in a better position since the end of the five years, when the first valuation was made—and, up to the present moment—than they were in during the first five years after the passing of the Act. But after the second period of five years had expired the second valuation had to be made, and it was then discovered that the calculations had been erroneous and that there was a deficit. The amount of the deficit was a doubtful point; it was fixed by one actuary at one amount and by another at another. But the contributions of the teachers were not raised, because it was felt in 1891 by those who were in power that the matter was so serious that it required further investigation. [Mr. T. M. HEALY: "What was done in 1885?"] That was the first valuation, when the rules were modified to the advantage of the teachers under the mistaken notion that the fund showed a surplus. Was the actuary who had miscalculated to be blamed? At one time he believed he was to be blamed, but he was not satisfied of that now. The Committee would understand that calculations of this kind must be based on certain assumptions as to the number of teachers in each class who would benefit by pensions, the number of years during which they would remain in the service, the number of premiums they would pay, and other matters. When the fund was established the age of entrance into the service was 17 for males and 16 for females, but it was subsequently raised to 18 for both sexes. The Committee would see that that change would by itself make a very material difference, because it lessened the number of years during which contributions would be paid to the fund, in some cases by two years and in others by one year. Then the tendency on the part of teachers to retire from the service without pensions proved to be much less than had been anticipated, and as time went on there were far more teachers in the first and second class and fewer in the third class than there were in 1879. The result of the errors in the calculation was that when the second valuation came to be made it was found that the first had been entirely wrong. He did not like to blame any of his predecessors in office, but he felt bound to say that the time during which this matter remained untouched was not very creditable to the Government of the day.

MR. SERGEANT HEMPHILL: When did it come before the late Government?

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER: The mistake was discovered in 1891 and they never put it right. The present Government had had the matter considered by three eminent specalists—Mr. Finlayson, Mr. Sutton, and Mr. Robinson—and the result of their investigations was discussed by a Committee, of which the Resident Commissioner of National Education was a member, who had made the recommendations upon which it was now proposed to act. He had shown how it was that the Pension Fund became deficient, and he hoped that he had also shown that neither in the Act nor in anything that had passed since was a liability imposed by Parliament on the Treasury to make that deficiency good. Further, he hoped that he had shown that certainly the Government could not be held responsible for the deficiency which occurred, and also that by what happened the teachers had materially benefited, because for all these years their contributions had been materially less to the Pension Fund than if the mistaken valuation in 1885 had never been made and their contribution then lowered. Now it was contended that the £96,000 ought to be paid into their pockets, and should not be devoted towards assisting to render the Pension Fund solvent. He did not think that they ought to ask Parliament to take such a course as that. It had not been suggested in Scotland, where there was a similar sum, though not so large, waiting to be devoted to educational purposes, that those arrears should be given to individuals after the years had elapsed during which they considered them to be due. The teachers would benefit by this allocation of the fund. Their increased contributions would be subject to a less increase than they would otherwise have been. It must also be remembered with regard to the fee grant that the Irish teachers, as compared with English and Scottish teachers, were in a very fortunate position. What was the origin of the fee grant? It was desired to give free education in England, and the amount which Parliament was asked to provide for free education in England and in Scotland was estimated to be precisely what the teachers would lose by the remission of fees hitherto paid by the children. That sum was calculated on the average of 10s. in England and Scotland; and he believed that the fees actually paid in Scotland had amounted to 12s. per child. There was no profit made by the teachers either in England or Scotland by the substitution of the fee grant for the fees paid by the pupils; but in Ireland, whichever basis was taken, whether the original basis of a mere equivalent grant or the basis of 10s. per child, the Irish national teachers had profited enormously by the change. The average fees in Ireland paid by the pupils were only 4s. 6d. per child in average attendance, compared with 10s. per child in England and 12s. in Scotland. Thus the Irish national teachers, instead of only receiving what they had received before, got more than double what they received before. For everv reason, therefore, it seemed to him only just and fair that this £96,000 should go to the benefit of the teachers in relief of the Pension Fund. This was no case in which the Treasury had overruled anyone. He believed that this had been a very liberal settlement on the part of the Treasury, because it was proposed that an annual sum, amounting to £18,000 in the present year, should be voted by Parliament to make the Pensions' Fund solvent, besides the contributions to be made by the teachers and by this payment for arrears. It was accepted by the Irish Government, and unanimously accepted by the Irish Board of Education; and he hoped the Committee would approve of what had been done. [*Cheers.*]

MR. T. M. HEALY said that everyone on his own side of the House who had heard the able speech of the right hon. Gentleman must at least have desired that some of the extraordinary ability shown in denying the elements of justice to Ireland could have been employed to a slight extent on the side of Ireland, and in endeavouring to make out a good case for her. Unfortunately the Irish Members had equipped against them the whole hierarchy of the British Government, with all the resources of the Government behind it. Though Ireland had only a number of untrained men, without a figure at their disposal, to put forward the Irish case, he thought that these men would be able, in spite of the marked ability of the defence of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, to show that right, truth, and justice were on the side of Ireland. The right hon. Gentleman said that the Irish teachers were in the first instance put into a position in 1879 far in advance of the position occupied by the teachers in England and Scotland. Taking the salaries of the Irish teachers and comparing them with those of the teachers in England and Scotland, he said that for every 14s. or 15s. received by the Irish teacher, the English or Scottish teacher received £1, while the last named were at least 2s. 6d. in the pound better off both as to pension and pay. The right hon. Gentleman next asserted that a fair bargain was made in 1879. It would be true to say that the right hon. Gentleman was one of the authors of the Act of 1879; but from 1874 to 1879 it would be found that the unfortunate Irish teachers, paid a miserable pittance, were clamouring to the Government, not for pensions, but for an increase of salary. The Treasury, in reply, said,—

> "No, we will give you an increase of salary if you can persuade the Irish Boards of Guardians to vote something out of the poor rates."

[*Cheers.*] Then the pension was provided out of the Church Surplus Fund; so that in either case the dog was being fed by a bit of his own tail. [*Laughter.*]

In a matter of this kind Ireland could not, like a State in the American Union, appeal to a Federal Judge to give a decision; Ireland could only, through the feeble voices of her representatives, appeal to and argue with what he would respectfully call the guilty parties. [*Laughter.*] It was a case of the traveller on the roadside appealing, like Ali Baba, to the Forty Thieves. [*Laughter.*] The Seventh Section of the Act said that if at any time the Pension Fund was insufficient for the payment of the £1,300,000 the Treasury, on being duly informed thereof by the Commissioners of the National Debt, should issue the amount of deficiency out of the Consolidated Fund, and the Treasury should certify such deficiency to Parliament. The Irish teachers, argued the right hon. Gentleman, supposed that if there was a deficiency in reference to the fund, the Treasury had undertaken to make it good. The right hon. Gentleman said that this was not the position at all; the Commissioners might make an advance to the extent of £1,300,000, and the limit of liability on the part of the Treasury was to make good the amount to that extent, and no more. His argument was that the teachers were all wrong—that they were only to get the £1,300,000, and that all the rest was to be made good out of their salaries and contributions. They asked, "Where is the evidence?" and the right hon. Gentleman replied,

> "If you look back to the spirit of the time you will find that everybody knew it and agreed to it."

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER: I was speaking of what I know. ["Hear, hear!"] I said that I was Irish Secretary the year before this Act was passed. I had a good deal to do with the preparation of the Act, and I am perfectly certain it was never intended by that Act to impose any liability on the Treasury except to the limited extent I have stated. ["Hear, hear!"]

MR. T. M. HEALY said he was quite sure that was the understanding of the right hon. Gentleman; and he had said, while he was out, that he believed he intended to do the Irish teachers service. That was the right hon. Gentleman's understanding; but was that the understanding of the Irish teachers? Observe this—who was now complaining of this deficiency? Was it the teachers? Did they come howling to that House, saying, "Our Pension Fund is bankrupt; give us something"? They had made no such complaint. The people who were howling and grumbling that the Irish Teachers' Fund was bankrupt were not the recipients of the fund themselves, but a benevolent British Treasury. ["Hear, hear!"] It was not the poor man of Connemara and Donegal who would get perhaps 15s. a week pension were the fund in good standing; it was not he who was coming to represent to the British Treasury that he stood in danger of being cut off without a shilling in his old age. No; the man who was feeling it in every pulse and fibre of his nature was the tender-hearted Treasury clerk. [*Laughter and cheers.*] What was the case of the Irish teachers? Talk of actuarial calculations! He remembered a remarkable instance. He could recollect being startled some years ago on reading in the *Standard* that at a Foresters' convention held in Edinburgh it was alleged that the Foresters' fund was bankrupt to the amount of a million. Yet the Foresters' Order was going gaily on; and, in spite of an actuarial deficiency, existing only on paper, was meeting every liability with as much regularity as the Bank of England. ["Hear, hear!"] These were your actuaries, upon the faith of whose advice the Government were acting. One actuary, a gentleman of high reputation, said the Teachers' Pension Fund was only bankrupt to the extent of £100,000; another, of equally good standing, put it at £900,000. Really, when actuaries differed, it was worse than doctors. [*Laughter.*] The position was this—that the Treasury put into a pool £1,300,000 of Irish money, and then called on the teachers to put in so much out of their salaries, in return for which they were to have a certain pension at such and such an age. Suppose they were dealing with an insurance society, what would be said; would such a thing be listened to for a moment? There was to be a great Commission on the financial relations of England and Ireland, and Mr. Lidderdale, of the Bank of England, had been mentioned as an authority of high standing.

How would Mr. Lidderdale be listened to if he issued a prospectus to policy-holders, saying, "Oh, my friends, we were all in the wrong; it was a little matter of actuarial miscalculation! You are now paying a bagatelle of £50, would you mind increasing it to £100, and you will then have as your reward a good conscience—[*laughter*]—and, when you get bald and grey, you will be in receipt of 13s. a week." [*Laughter.*] That, as he understood it, was the position of the British Treasury. But, passing the sponge over these small matters, he would like to address Her Majesty's Government as human beings. ["Hear, hear!" *and Ministerial laughter.*] What were they arguing about? They spent millions on ships, soldiers, and railways. Here, in the case of a body of men—some 20,000 or 30,000—who had charge of the education of the whole Irish people, they were dealing, not with millions, but with a paltry sum of £70,000 or £100,000, and yet, with an income of 100 millions a year, they deemed it respectable and decent to carry on this contest over an addition of £3 or £4 a year to the salaries of men who were responsible for the teaching of millions of their fellow-subjects. ["Hear, hear!" *and laughter.*] How was it these actuarial calculations were not discovered until the Irish people found out the Government were diddling them? There was to be a quinquennial revision, and the first quinquennial revision found out that the Irish people were £100,000 to the good, and accordingly every national teacher went out and had a drink. [*Laughter.*] That was the first essay in quinquennial revision. Five years passed away, and then in 1890—a Liberal Government having in 1885 brought Paddy in as having £100,000 profit—a Tory Government, on the close investigation that was always applied by the present First Lord of the Admiralty with his theory of foreign exchanges, brought them in £500,000 to the bad, and then said, "Oh! this is terrible." Having kept this secret locked in the Treasury bosom since 1890, the Government unlocked their bosom for the first time when the Irish people discovered that John Bull had been doing them on this "nine-eightieth" principle, and when they proved it. Then it was that John Bull had his ever fertile and ready answer: "It is true that we did you in that year, but we have a remedy for that. Your Pension Fund has gone wrong, but we did not tell you before." These poor people had invested their money on the faith of British honour. They allowed dockages from their salaries on the faith that they were dealing with a great, a generous, and a powerful nation. He remembered how Gordon, in Khartoum, said of the issue of leather shillings and leather halfpence that they would be redeemed because an Englishman had passed his word that they were good. The English Government had passed their word that their money, or rather the Irish people's money, was good, but what did they find out? They got this answer,—

> "You have worked for it, for you were teachers from 1880 to 1897, but we will give the money to your children or your children's children. Take heart, my friends, for when you are mouldering in your graves, when another king is celebrating his jubilee in some dim and distant future, then the Pension Fund will be made good at the slow and sure rate of £10,000 a year by the bounty of the Britisher, and in 1996 the teachers yet unborn will be retiring gaily with the bright assurance of 13s. 6d. a week."

He had addressed himself to this question as he hoped he did to all these international questions, no doubt with the sentiment of a partisan, but with a desire, if he could, to do justice to the arguments that might be opposed to him. He admitted that they in Ireland might be poorer hands at rule of three than the British Government. But the Government controlled the purse, and they had the Irish money in it. No honest or fair-minded man, with regard to a mere bagatelle of this kind, would deal with it in the spirit of the rule of three when dealing as a great nation towards a small one, but as dealing with a body of men whose duty it was to instruct them, they should rather err upon the side of generosity than upon the side of parsimony.

Mr. GEORGE MURNAGHAN (Tyrone, Mid) urged that the Government should listen to the united voice of the Members from Ireland, and yield in this matter. The teachers of Ireland had a right to expect that the Government would treat them justly. Certain pensions were promised in 1880, and if the fund did not allow of them why should the teachers, who were not responsible, suffer? If a miscalculation had been made, the State was better able to pay for it than the teachers.

Mr. EDWARD CARSON (Dublin University) said he would not have intervened in the Debate if he had not wished to state that there was absolutely no difference of opinion among the Members from Ireland on this question. [*Nationalist cheers.*] In matters of this kind, which dealt with the financial treatment of Ireland, the Government should be careful to act with scrupulous justice towards that country. The present moment was not the time when the Government could choose to carry out injustice to any section of the Irish people. [*Nationalist cheers.*] The Chancellor of the Exchequer, in his able and powerful speech, stated that the National Teachers' Act of 1879 conferred great benefits on that body. That was about as wide of the question the Committee were discussing as any subject that could be introduced. The question was not whether their position was bettered by that Act or not. The question was, had the British Treasury kept faith with the teachers under an Act of Parliament passed by the House? [*Nationalist cheers.*] He was glad that this year they started in a somewhat better position than last year. He well remembered the struggle they had last year to get an admission from the Treasury that the national teachers in Ireland had been defrauded in the past to the tune of something like £100,000, and he remembered the discussion (in which Irish Unionists and Nationalists took part) when they wrung from the Treasury the admission that by a miscalculation, not of Members of the Government but of officials of the Treasury, who always set themselves up as authorities on this question —[*Nationalist cheers*]—the national teachers of Ireland had been defrauded—he used the word literally—as it was admitted now, of a sum of at least £100,000. What the Committee were discussing was what was to be done with respect to the sum admitted to be due to the school teachers, and what he said was, "Pay it back to the men who had earned it, the men who in the past had been deprived of it." It was no answer to say as had been said from the Government Bench, that there would be difficulty in finding these men, there would be no great difficulty in finding them. Fortunately a large number were still teachers in Ireland, and if there were any others that could not now be found, at all events, let those who could be found receive the money they ought to receive, money due to them under the Act passed by Parliament. But assuming that the money was not applied in the way he proposed, and as it ought to be applied, what reason was there why the Government should propose to supply the deficiency in the Pension Fund by money having no connection with the Pension Fund? Teachers had not asked for it and teachers were entirely interested in the fund. What connection could be found as between the arrears due to the teachers in the past and the Pension Fund that may be due to them in the future? There was only one connection, and that was the Treasury thought they had found a sum of money by which they could fill up the hiatus, and if the gap were not filled in that way it would have to be filled from Imperial sources. What he did say was this, and this was the whole crux of the question. While the Chancellor of the Exchequer was addressing his argument to the Committee he asked the right hon. Gentleman what construction he put upon the 7th Section of the Act of 1879, and with a wave of the hand and one or two words the Chancellor of the Exchequer thought he had got rid of the question. But take it in the most technical way, the whole crux of the situation depended on the 7th Section, the question could not to be decided by saying "we are right and you are wrong in the construction of the Section." How did the case stand? In 1879 a pension was created in this way—£1,300,000 was allotted as a fund from the proceeds of the robbery of the Irish Church, and that was of course a purely Irish fund. It was enacted in the Act of 1879 that to supplement that fund certain deductions specified in the schedule should be made annually from the salaries of teachers who came under the scheme. In consideration of those deductions they were guaranteed in an Imperial Act the payment of certain pensions set out in the Act. What was the Government case now? They said "although that is so, although we have deducted these sums, we are unable to pay the sums guaranteed by the Act." Assuming this Treasury construction of the Act, and that it could be so argued before a Court, was this the kind of justice the House was going to give to the teachers of Ireland? ["Hear, hear!"] Would the House support the Government in saying, "we have deducted your money, taking the full quota we laid down for you to pay under the Act, you have done your part, we are unable to do ours, and you must be the sufferers." ["Hear, hear!"] A most unworthy argument for the British House of Commons. ["Hear, hear!"] He denied the construction. The 7th Section enacted that so long as this money, which was to be advanced by the National Debt Commissioners until the money was paid over from the Church Fund, so long as this money was unpaid, the National Debt Commissioners were to go on paying to the Pension Fund, and if there was any deficiency it was to be met out of the Imperial Treasury. If the money was still due to the National Debt Commissioners they would go on paying to the Pension Fund, and the Imperial Treasury would pay the deficiency. But now the House was asked to say that because the National Debt Commissioners had been repaid out of the Church funds, then when funds fell short the Imperial Treasury was not to afford relief. It was an argument that could not for a moment hold water, for its whole construction would depend not upon whether persons were rightly paid or not, but whether the Church Fund had made payment to the National Debt Commissioners or not. It was an absurd argument, and even if that were the technical construction of the Act of Parliament he should have thought the Chancellor of the Exchequer would have been ashamed to put it forward in the House as against the claims of these school teachers, whose salaries had had deductions made from them according to a scale laid down in an Act of Parliament. ["Hear, hear!"] But the Chancellor of the Exchequer saw himself that the Act must have meant that the pensions mentioned in the schedule were to be paid under all circumstances to the teachers so long as they made contributions, but he said deficiencies must be made up by increased contributions from the teachers. From beginning to end of the Act he defied anyone to point to a single word showing that such was in contemplation. So far was that from being the case, it declared there should be no divergence from the sums stipulated as deductions from the salaries of National teachers, and the schedule enacted to a penny what these deductions were to be. Therefore, it was perfectly plain, whether the common-sense view of the case were taken, or whether the Act itself were taken, as it would be understood by a teacher or any person who read it, or even on the narrowest construction of the section itself, there was no reason in the world why the pensions promised to the teachers should not faithfully be paid. What did the proposal of the Government amount to? It was a proposal to pay a debt of the British Treasury from the hard-earned wages of these men—["hear, hear!"]—and that was a matter on which Members on the Ministerial side of the House, who represented Irish constituencies, wished to protest as much as Members of the Party opposite. ["Hear, hear!"] He would say to his hon. and right hon. Friends on the Front Bench that it was this higgling and peddling on the part of the Treasury, more than in any other manner, that distrust was raised in the minds of hard-working men in Ireland, such as these teachers were. They said, "If we are unable to get common justice from the Imperial House of Commons in such matters, how can we expect in the broader political questions that come under discussion, and in which the happiness of our people is concerned, that our claims will be listened to? ["Hear, hear!"] He would be ashamed to get up on any platform in Ireland and for a moment attempt to defend this proposal to take £90,000 from these National School teachers. He hoped that on this question what he might call the unanimous voice of the representatives of Ireland would be listened to. They were unanimous a short time ago on another question, and they were outvoted, but the Government afterwards found that the question was not disposed of. He thought they ought to take warning by that. Upon this question they none of them had any political objects in view—[*Irish cheers*]—and on that side of the House at all events they wished for justice, not merely to Ireland, but to England and Ireland as a whole. He hoped the Government would see their way to meet them, and if they did he should not look upon it as a concession, but as an equitable and just carrying out of the provisions of the Act of Parliament itself. ["Hear, hear!"]

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR said they had listened that evening to one of the most good-humoured and clever speeches from the hon. and learned Member for Louth which he had ever had the pleasure of hearing. It would perhaps be a pity to criticise in a serious spirit a speech delivered obviously with the intention of amusing and diverting the House. The speech which had just been delivered by his right hon. Friend the Member for Dublin University, on the other hand, seemed to have been delivered in a most serious, he might even say a desperately serious, spirit. His right hon. Frieind asked what these two questions had in common. The question of the deficiency of the Pension Fund and the question of the way in which these arrears were to be applied, were from the nature of the case intimately connected with each other, and that that was so had been shown by the fact that in the discussion hon. Members had found it almost impossible to dissever them. The deficiency in the Pension Fund might be diverted into two parts. Owing to the fact that the teachers had not up to the present time contributed the amount which they ought to have contributed to the fund, there was a deficiency of £200,000. The actual total deficiency in the fund was £1,200,000. What did the Government propose to do? They might have said that it would be fair in future to apply to the teachers' contributions, inasmuch as they had hitherto paid less than they should have done had the calculations been made on an adequate basis. But instead of that they proposed that a certain sum which the Government last year consented to pay under the name of arrears for school grant, should be applied to this purpose, and that, so far as increased contributions from the teachers were concerned, they would only ask them in future to pay on the scale on which they ought to have paid from the beginning. The remainder of the deficiency in the fund had eaten up the whole or a very large portion of the £1,300,000 with which the fund was originally endowed. That sum was derived not from Imperial but from Irish sources. They proposed to supply, not from Irish but from Imperial resources, the sum of £1,000,000, which was the amount of the deficiency irrespective of the deficiency which was due to the teachers not having contributed so much as they ought to have done. Therefore, although it was true that in the first instance this fund was endowed out of Irish sources, it would in future be practically endowed out of Imperial sources, and from that point of view, so far from not treating Ireland generously, they were treating Ireland with every generosity that could be fairly expected. [*Ironical Nationalist cheers.*] If they were now voting these school grant arrears to the purpose of supplying one portion of the deficiency in the fund, he would remind the Committee that that portion of the deficiency arose from the fact that the teachers had not contributed as much as they ought to have done. His hon. Friend the Member for West Belfast had said that the deficiency was the result of a miscalculation, but he would point out that during all these years the teachers had had the benefit of that mistake. His right hon. Friend said they had paid what the Act said they ought to have paid, and that there was nothing in the Act to countenance an alteration. Notwithstanding his right hon. Friend's great reputation as a lawyer, he seemed on this occasion to have offered a legal opinion without even reading the Act, and the Act did not bear out his statement. With regard to the schedule he pointed out that in 1885 the rules in the schedule actually were altered. Did his right hon. Friend seriously put forward the proposition that the rules in the schedule might be altered in favour of teachers, but could not be altered in order to redress the balance so as to do justice to the State?

Mr. CARSON said that what he had said was that the scale laid down could not be altered by any act of the Lord Lieutenant.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR said he should be very sorry if his right hon.

Friend's reputation as a lawyer were to depend on the case he had put forward. He would like to say one word more as to the legal opinion which had just been given by his right hon. Friend. He referred to Section 7. Would any other lawyer of reputation in the House get up and say that Section 7 was intended for any other purpose than to guarantee the National Debt Commissioners? The National Debt Commissioners, under many of their Acts of Parliament, had to make temporary advances, and when they made those advances there was always a provision in the Act to guarantee the Commissioners against any loss which they might incur. That, and that only, was the object of that section, and when his right hon. Friend said that the whole question turned on the interpretation of Section 7 he was quite willing to take him at his word. If it did, then he had not a doubt in his own mind that his right hon. Friend had really no standing ground in this matter at all.

Mr. CARSON said his right hon. Friend unintentionally misrepresented him. He said that, the debt having to be repaid to the National Commissioners, if the Government were prepared to take this money upon a strict technicality they could do so.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR said it did not appear to him to be a question of strict technicality at all. This clause was inserted just as a similar clause was inserted in other Acts wherever a temporary advance was to be made by the National Debt Commissioners. He was very sorry that hon. Members from Ireland on both sides of the House should have taken in connection with this matter the line they had taken. He should be sorry indeed to see any injustice done to Ireland, and if he thought that this was an injustice he should certainly say so. But from the beginning—he said so in the most distinct and emphatic manner—he had held the view that the Treasury were acting not only fairly, but even generously in the action they had taken. [*Nationalist cries of* "Oh!"] The result would be a benefit to the National school teachers — [*renewed cries of* "Oh!"]—because unless this deficiency were met in the Pension Fund it would be impossible to maintain the scale of payments. If a sum of something short of £100,000 was to be paid from the arrears of school grant towards making this fund solvent, let the House remember that the Government were making a contribution to the fund this year, and it would probably turn out to be an annual contribution of £18,000. The hon. Member for Louth said that this was of little matter, and that the Government should give that which all the Irish Members and the Irish teachers were agreed ought to be given. The conclusion he was driven to was, that all the Irish Members would invariably come down to that House and press for money when they thought it could be squeezed out of the Treasury.

Mr. MACNEILL: It is our own money. [*Cheers.*]

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR said it was a question as to the application of these funds. They were asked to make good the deficiency in the Pension Fund entirely out of Imperial money. They were supposed, on the other hand, to give the teachers the benefit of the arrears of school grant, and to give them that benefit by adding to the Pension Fund so as to make it solvent. He maintained that, if they looked at the action of the Treasury in contributing £18,000 a year to the deficiency, and that if they considered, further, that this deficiency in the Pension Fund arose entirely from the fact that the teachers in the past had not paid the full contributions they ought to have paid, the Committee would come to the conclusion that fairness and justice had been done to the teachers in this matter. Reference had been made by the hon. Member for West Belfast to the convent schools, and he had said that the giving of a contribution to those schools was a proof that this money was due to the teachers in National schools. The case in regard to these schools was simply this. The teachers in those schools did not receive salaries, and they did not contribute to the Pension Fund. If the convent and monastery schools were to receive their share of this grant it could not be otherwise than by way of a contribution to them as a corporate body. It would be impossible to pay these funds over to the individual teachers in those schools. Therefore, as regarded them, that method was adopted, but, as regarded the teachers, they had adopted the other method on the most careful consideration, and he believed the Committee would agree, on principles that were fair and just.

MR. CARSON said there was one matter referred to by his right hon. Friend which he certainly could not allow to go unchallenged. He thought it was rather unworthy of him to suggest that the Irish Unionist Members were always prepared to come down to that House and make demands on the Imperial Exchequer, whether they thought they were entitled to them or not. He entirely repudiated that suggestion—["hear, hear!"]—and he thought it came with rather an ill grace from the Irish Chief Secretary of a Unionist Government, supported as he was by Irish Unionists. He could only say, for his own part, that it was absolutely without foundation. ["Hear, hear!"] He should like to say that on the present occasion it was not a demand on the Imperial Treasury at all. It was simply a demand that Irish funds earned by Irish teachers should be given to the men who earned them. [*Nationalist cheers.*] And he, no matter what might be the view or the criticism or the sneer of an Irish Chief Secretary, would certainly, as an Irish Member, have no hesitation in these circumstances in standing up in defence of these men. [*Nationalist cheers.*] He regretted the tone of his right hon. Friend, and he did not think that he either improved the position of Unionism in Ireland or made their task in that House easier by suggesting towards them motives which would at once brand them among their constituents as acting dishonourably for the purpose of obtaining money from the Imperial Exchequer for purposes for which they were not entitled to it.

MR. DILLON said the Chief Secretary had gone so far as to challenge any other lawyer to maintain that under Section 7 any permanent charge could be thrown on the Treasury. He found that that was not the opinion of a great many speakers during the Debate when that section was introduced. On the 28th July 1879 the House went into Committee on Section 7. In Committee on the Bill, Mr. Childers, who knew something about financial matters, argued that the Resolution was necessary, in order that if there was a deficiency the charges should be defrayed from time to time from the public funds. That clearly showed that Mr. Childers interpreted the section as creating a permanent charge on the public funds. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for Bodmin took the same view. The Government then thought it right to show that no deficiency in the fund would arise. They accordingly limited the pension to a certain number of teachers in the various classes, male and female, which are set forth in the schedule of the Act. In fact, no one who read the Debates on the Bill could doubt that in the opinion of a great many Members of the House, including some of its most experienced Members, Clause 7 did contemplate the placing of any deficiency that might arise in the Pension Fund as a charge on the Imperial Exchequer; and it was argued that the proper way to deal with such charge was to bring it up on the annual Votes of the House. Again, the Chief Secretary had said it had been clearly proved that the deficiency in the fund had arisen from the fact that the teachers had paid less than they ought to have paid. That was not the fault of the teachers, who had always paid what they had been called upon to pay. But the Chief Secretary in making that statement must have forgotten, or must have misinterpreted the Report of the Departmental Committee on the subject, which showed that the accounts were so mixed up that it was impossible now to tell whether the deficiency arose in the original fund or in the contributions of the teachers. The important part of the Report consisted in a recital of the various Acts. What had been the history of the operation of those Acts? In 1885 a first-rate actuary reported that the fund was £100,000 to the good. An alteration was then made in the rules in favour of the teachers, and in 1890 another first-rate actuary reported that the fund was £195,000 to the bad. Then the same actuary and another actuary were set to work, and they reported that the fund was £837,000 to the bad. Subsequently it had been reported that the fund was £924,000 and £1,200,000 to the bad. There was no end to the reports, and no one had any firm ground to stand upon. What assurance had they that in another five years another actuary might not report that the fund was another £100,000 to the good? To seize upon a sum of money which went but a very small way towards filling up the alleged deficiency was a very harsh and new proceeding. The National Commissioners, in their Report for 1895, give a balance-sheet of the Pension Fund. According to that balance-sheet, the fund had been growing rapidly, and there was a balance to the good invested in Stock, of about £44,000. It was perfectly plain that if there be a deficiency—about which he was extremely doubtful—that deficiency could not or would not come into operation during the life of any living teacher. The Government now proposed to take away from a few poor Irish teachers a sum of £90,000 which they had earned. The question which had been raised to-night was an immediate one—one which ought not to be put off and made to hang upon the solvency of the Pension Fund; it was, whether a rich Government was, in the opinion of the whole Irish people, going to do an extremely shabby thing.

Mr. J. CALDWELL (Lanark, Mid) said that if the Chancellor of the Exchequer were going to make a comparison between the Irish teachers and those of England and Scotland as to pension, he ought to remember that the Irish teachers received much smaller salaries. The average salary for teachers in Scotland (taking principals and assistants together) was £183 10s.; in England it was £122 6s. 7d., and in Ireland, where there were only principal teachers, it was £98 16s. 11¾d. How had this deficiency arisen? Ireland was to receive 9-80ths of what England received; and she did get that proportion of what appeared on the Estimates of the year. But owing to the increase in average attendance in England, a supplementary Estimate had to be brought in, and Ireland was entitled to 9-80ths of the amount of that supplementary Estimate. How would that sum have been distributed if it had been given? Beyond all doubt, it would have gone to the teachers. In 1892 the sum for Ireland had increased by £149,918, and £140,523 of that amount went to the teachers. Last year the sum for Ireland had increased by £73,000, and the expenditure on the teachers increased by £80,000. The increased sum from the fee grant went entirely to the teachers in Ireland; and if it had been larger it would still have gone to the teachers. Was it fair, therefore, because of a miscalculation, to deprive the teachers of the money due to them? As to the amount, according to the principle of 1889 (the proportion of 9-80ths), the amount due to Ireland would be £257,000. But on the principle of 10s. per child, now adopted in the Estimates, the amount was only £255,000. So that by this change of principle Ireland was defrauded of £2,000. The 10s. per child principle was urged on the Government for Ireland and Scotland in past years, but they would never adopt it while it was favourable to those countries.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. GRANT LAWSON): The hon. Member entered into that question very fully on the Scotch Estimates.

MR. FLYNN said that the speeches of the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Chief Secretary would be received with bitter disappointment in Ireland to-morrow, not only by the National teachers, but by the general public, and they would be regarded as further evidence of the impossibility of Ireland getting justice from this House or from the Treasury. He called attention to the question of the average attendance necessary to qualify for the employment of assistant teachers, the present average being much too high. The Commissioners of National Education had brought this matter under the notice of the right hon. Gentleman and also of the Lord Lieutenant more than 12 months ago, and a promise was made that the matter would be carefully considered, and he wanted to know what had been done about it. He further complained that no settlement had yet been arrived at in regard to the claims of the schools of the Christian Brothers.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR thought it would be undesirable to enter upon the debateable question of the Christian Brothers' Schools. He had already brought forward a proposal which was unacceptable to hon. Members opposite, and unless the Government was prepared to drive the proposal through the House at an immense expenditure of time, or an agreement was come to with the Members who represented the Christian Brothers, he did not see that anything could be done. The offer he had made he was still prepared to make if he heard that it would meet with their acceptance.

Vote agreed to.

5. £1,697, to complete the sum for National Gallery of Ireland.—Agreed to.

CLASS II.

Motion made, and Question proposed,

> "That a sum, not exceeding £2,771, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1898, for the salaries and expenses of the Household of the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland."

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR suggested that they should now report Progress.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR urged that they should go on, as this Vote would not need prolonged discussion.

MR. DILLON and DR. TANNER dissented from that view.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR suggested that the Votes for the Public Record Office, the Surveyor General's Office, and the Valuation and Boundary Survey might be taken.

MR. DILLON said there was an important question to be raised on the Valuation and Boundary Survey Vote, and also on the Public Record Office Vote. On the Vote for the Lord Lieutenant's household he wished to call attention to the salary of the private secretary. Instead of the salary of this office being reduced or modified, it appeared to him to be enormously increased. The emoluments of this gentleman amounted to about £1,600 a year, and although the question had been raised year after year, it could never be ascertained what his functions were. He believed he had no public functions whatever, and he had always thought his salary much too large. The whole question of the cost of the Viceregal establishment had acquired a new aspect in view of the new system of charging certain sums against Ireland. Every single item in connection with the hangers on to that establishment was charged to Ireland, and he did not think the Chief Secretary could be surprised if the Irish Members scrutinised the extravagance of Dublin Castle with more care than in past years. He thought he would be expressing the feelings of the Irish Members on this matter by moving to reduce the salary of the private secretary to the Lord Lieutenant by £329, and he begged to move accordingly.

MR. T. M. HEALY suggested to the Government that they should withdraw this Vote, and take the Vote for the Charitable Bequests and Donations Office.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR thought it was reasonable to ask the House to dispose of this Vote. It had never been discussed at any great length hitherto. The Vote for the private secretary reached the amount named, because he enjoyed a pension in view of his having been assistant under secretary, and he only received £829 in respect of his office of private secretary.

MR. FLYNN said that the discussion of this Vote must occupy considerable time. Why should the Lord Lieutenant have a highly-paid private secretary to write out invitations to Court functions? The services of a typewriter could be secured for £2 a week.

MR. T. M. HEALY observed that the salary of the kettledrummer had disappeared from this Vote. In his place, however, a new personage appeared—namely, "the succentor." Who could he be? [*Laughter.*]

THE CHAIRMAN (MR. GRANT LAWSON) pointed out that the only item now before the Committee was the salary of the private secretary.

MR. T. M. HEALY thought that possibly the private secretary might be the "succentor." [*Laughter.*] He did not know. He suggested that this Vote should be deferred, and the Vote for the Public Record Office taken instead.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR acceded to the suggestion.

Original Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

6. £3,880, to complete the sum for Public Record Office, Ireland.—Agreed to.

Resolutions to be reported upon Monday next; Committee to sit again upon Monday next.

WAYS AND MEANS.

Committee deferred till Monday next.

BICYCLES (IRELAND) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Monday next.

BURIAL GROUNDS LOANS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Adjourned Debate on Second Reading [11th May] further adjourned till Monday next.

STIPENDIARY MAGISTRATES' JURISDICTION (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Monday next.

POOR LAW BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Monday next.

DANGEROUS PERFORMANCES BILL.

Committee deferred till Monday next.

SCHOOL BOARDS' EXPENSES BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Monday next.

PUBLIC HEALTH (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Consideration, as amended (by the Standing Committee), deferred till Monday next.

PRIVATE BUSINESS.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY, in moving, "That this House do now adjourn," stated that, as great progress had been made with private Bill legislation, it would not now be necessary to defer the consideration of public business until Half-past Three o'clock. For the remainder of the Session public business would therefore be taken at a Quarter past Three o'clock.

House Adjourned accordingly at Five
Minutes before Twelve o'Clock
till Monday next.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Monday, 5th July 1897.

MERCHANT SHIPPING (EXEMPTIONS FROM PILOTAGE) BILL [H.L.].

A Bill to remove certain exemptions from compulsory pilotage—Was presented by the Prime Minister; Read 1^a; and to be printed.—(No. 143.)

DISCHARGED PRISONERS' AID SOCIETIES.

*EARL STANHOPE called attention to the recent Report of the Rev. G. Merrick to Her Majesty's Commissioners of Prisons, on the operations of Discharged Prisoners' Aid Societies. It would be in the recollection of the House that the former Home Secretary (Mr. ASQUITH) appointed a Departmental Committee to inquire into the discipline and procedure in prisons. That Committee was presided over by Mr. Herbert Gladstone, and reported last year. Among other matters included in their Inquiry was the operation of these Societies, and upon this point the Committee recommended that the Government grant should be increased and extended to such institutions as were conducted on approved methods for the aid of discharged prisoners. Last Session he asked what action the present Home Secretary proposed to take in regard to this Report, and in reply was informed that a full inquiry would be made into the matter. That inquiry had now taken place, and it was in consequence of the Report of the Rev. G. Merrick, who was appointed by the Government to make the inquiry, that he now desired to briefly call the attention of their Lordships to the subject. The small Blue-book containing the Report of the Commissioner appointed by the Home Office pointed out that in every department, and in every matter of administration these Societies differed. There were a great many good societies, as their Lordships were aware, and the one at Maidstone, in which he was personally interested, did its work admirably and with much good result in relieving discharged prisoners; there were 437 cases relieved last year. It was also evident from reports of its operation that the Society at Birmingham was doing its work well. But as regards many societies, not named in the Blue-book, they were not worthy the name of associations. Their Lordships must be interested in the general question, for there was a society for every prison district. Some of the societies issued no reports, held no annual meetings, and distributed no grants. Forty societies were very glad to avail themselves of the assistance of the Governor and Chaplain of the jail for information, and many availed themselves of the services of the Governor and Chaplain as a sub-committee of inquiry into cases before relief was given. Others declined to use any sub-committee. It was of course most desirable that the visiting justices should be thoroughly acquainted with the cases they visited, and be able to offer advice and assistance as to what form of relief should be given to prisoners; but in many associations visiting justices were not members of the committees. Then there were a great many societies who would not co-operate with other adjoining societies. There were about three-fourths who might be said to be in favour of co-operation, but there were very few indeed who carried it out so that prisoners coming from an adjoining district should receive relief, and the members of the adjoining society were sometimes looked upon as "intruders." This might be an extreme precaution against overlapping, but it prevented all co-operation. Some of these societies had adequate funds, and there were 15 which received no Government grant at all. There was one point in the Report which he must allude to. The Commissioners said,—

> "An example is set in the country which is worthy of complimentary notice, and worthy, too, of considerable emulation. The Grand Jury send to the Aid Society about £20 yearly, a sum which remains after the expenses connected with their dinners have been paid."

He did not think there was any other instance of such a help coming from a Grand Jury. The rules were largely uniform, but the administration of the rules was not at all unifrom. The chief objects which the societies had tried to carry out was to find employment and temporary lodgings for a discharged prisoner, or, if he had a respectable home, to send him to his home. In many cases where there were no relatives emigration had been found to work extremely well. In order to carry out these arrangements, there must be agents, and the great majority of the societies did employ agents. Thirteen of the societies, however, employed the police, and he thought that was very much to be deprecated. He should say it was extremely discouraging for these discharged prisoners to be met at the prison gate by the police and not by a private or paid agent. There was sometimes, as was quoted in the Report, quite a scramble for a prisoner, because the Prison Gate Mission also tried to take possession of the prisoner to the exclusion of the authorised agents of these societies. That, of course, was to be deprecated. That was overlapping, and Mr. Merrick reported against anything of the kind. The prisoners' gratuities were sometimes not interfered with at all. Sixteen of the societies did not touch the gratuities; others took them and paid them out by small contributions at stated intervals; while others, again, paid the railway fare out of them. This was quite in accordance with the prison rules laid down under the Act of 1877. There was one thing in regard to the relief given by these agents which ought to be noted. The Report said that sometimes the disbursing of a small sum of money cost almost as much again.

> "It may be mentioned," the Report said, "that in the case of one society it cost £6 2s. 10d. to disburse £8 12s. 7½d., the total amount expended on behalf of the prisoners. Another instance may be cited. The agent was paid £60 for disbursing £67; no less than £35 of this went for doles of food, while £12 went for lodgings, £7 for railway fares, and about £13 for tools and gratuity balances."

These were cases which did not deserve assistance from the Government. It was only societies that administered their funds well, and could prove that they were doing really good work that deserved a Government grant. The Government grant at presnt was only £1,500 altogether, and that had not been changed since the Government took over the prisons 20 years ago. That amounted to about 6d. a head, and it was no doubt in consequence of that that the Departmental Committee had made the recommendation he had referred to. The suggestions and recommendations made by the Rev. G. Merrick were shortly these—that each society should be registered, and if it was not efficient it should lose its certificate; that sub-committees should visit the prisons weekly; that voluntary or paid agents should be secured, and that the police should never be employed; that a Government grant should be awarded to a society according to its efficiency; that these societies should disburse the prisoners' gratuities in kind rather than in money, and that there should be prepared a list of all the efficient societies for the aid of discharged prisoners. He hoped his noble Friend would be able to give him some satisfactory answer to the question he had put.

Earl Stanhope.

*LORD NORTON said he should like to say just one word upon the subject of these societies before the Government made answer. He took a strong paternal interest in the working of discharged prisoners' aid, having himself introduced the Act, now, he thought, 40 years ago, and having been engaged during the whole of the time in the administration of one of the largest of these societies in Birmingham. The consideration the Report rather lost sight of was that these societies were voluntary and benevolent societies, and they would lose altogether the zeal and usefulness with which they were worked if the Government took them up, or if they were in any way put into the hands of the police. ["Hear, hear!"] Societies of this kind were established for a very simple and restricted purpose—namely, to find employment for prisoners on their discharge from prison. This work had been done by private effort, slightly subsidised from the Treasury with gratuities earned in prison; but the Report seemed to take altogether a different view of these societies, supposing them to have a much larger scope of action. It spoke throughout of taking charge of prisoners after their discharge, lodging them, finding employment for them, supervising them, and even taking charge of their wives and families. In fact, in the words of the Report, it was a sort of "clerical shepherdising" of prisoners. That was not the object of the Act, and he believed, if that purpose were carried out it would do infinite mischief to the prisoners themselves and to society at large. The sooner the prisoner, after his discharge, was free, and not taken charge of by the public, the better for himself, and the more easily would he get employment, and the more chance he had of retrieving his character. But the Report evidently took this mistaken view throughout by the terms it used. It called these discharged men "ex-prisoners," as though they were always to retain the stigma of prison. The object was that they should be perfectly independent, and that their employment should not be hindered by any prison character at all. Above all things, he hoped these societies would be kept from all connection with the police. He should oppose any further aid being given to the societies by the Government if that aid were to be connected with the Government taking control of, or interfering with, them. It would ruin them. The society with which he was connected in Birmingham wanted no money. Its subscriptions were perfectly ample. Its success was indicated by the fact that more than 90 per cent. of the men they had helped to get employment for after their discharge had succeeded in after life, and that this had been done at an average cost of 18s. per case. The committee of the society consisted of subscribers and of the visiting justices, who were generally subscribers, and who were the men they should look to to carry out these institutions far more than the Government. These were the men who should be trusted much more for all prison interests than they were. They were the men to carry out specially benevolent work of this kind. As to the co-operation which the noble Earl most wisely said was a very important thing, he would say that for some time after the Act was passed, there were only one or two of these societies. It was, however, pressed upon the public that they could not be really successful unless there were kindred societies connected with every prison in the kingdom. There were societies at this moment connected with every prison, but some of them were no doubt, as reported, ill-conducted. What was the remedy? Mulct them of the Government grant till reformed, but do not upset the whole system because a few of the societies were at fault. He believed there was nothing that had done more for the emptying of the gaols of this country than the reformatories, which had broken up the nurseries of crime, and the discharged prisoners' aid societies, which had checked to a great extent the return to crime of those who had been once discharged from prison. ["Hear, hear!"]

Lord BELPER said he recognised very fully not only the great interest which the noble Earl and the noble Lord took in this question, but also the very general interest in the country in the excellent work that these societies had been doing, mainly by voluntary efforts. He could say that with all the more truth because he was himself very much interested in a society in his own county, and had for many years been fully alive to the very excellent work they had done at a very small cost in enabling discharged prisoners to seek an honest living. Since the early part of the Session this question had not only been fully considered by the Prison Commissioners, but it had also been before the Home Office and the Treasury. A scheme had been prepared by the Prison Commissioners and received the approval of the Secretary of State for the Home Department and of the Treasury, which gave practical effect to a large part of the most important of the recommendations which were made in Mr. Merrick's Report. Their Lordships would not expect him to go in detail into the 60 recommendations which Mr. Merrick made, but he might say in the clearest manner that the Government fully recognised the excellent voluntary work which had been done by these societies, and did not wish by any suggestions they made in any way to interfere with or to harass the societies in their own manner of working, and did not wish to lay down hard conditions, which naturally the societies might not be willing to accept. ["Hear, hear!"] The object of the Government in the proposals they desired to see carried out was to guide and assist the societies in making their work as efficient as possible. The Government wished to see the societies properly constituted and managed in a businesslike manner, holding annual general meetings and monthly meetings of the committees, and possessing rules that should be approved by the Commissioners. If the societies fulfilled such general conditions it was intended that they should receive a certificate from the Secretary of State, and be enabled to draw the grant which it was proposed the Government should give. It was suggested that the grant should be made at the rate of £2 10s. for every 100 prisoners discharged from the prison with which a society was in connection—that was, 6d. a head. There was this proviso, however, that in no case would the grant exceed the amount which was raised by private subscriptions. It was also suggested that, in the case of there being any local prison charity, the amount actually recived annually from such charity should be deducted from the amount which would be paid by the Government. Some societies had hitherto been mulcted of the actual revenue of the prison charity, although they did not receive the whole of that revenue. It was considered it would not be fair there should be deducted from the amount paid by the Government more than the amount the societies actually received. ["Hear, hear!"] Hitherto the grant had amounted to from £1,500 to £2,000, but he understood that in the future it would amount to about £2,700. ["Hear, hear!"] Reference had been made to the question of co-operation between the different societies. That was a point which had not been lost sight of; indeed it was one specially referred to in the report of Mr. Merrick. It would, he was sure, be a matter of satisfaction to the House that Mr. Merrick had received the permanent appointment of visiting chaplain to Her Majesty's goals, and that one of his special duties would be to put himself in communication with the societies and assist them in the management. In that way Mr. Merrick would be able to bring the different societies into touch with one another and organise a more systematised method of management than that which at present obtained.

*Earl STANHOPE asked whether the Report of the Prison Commissioners would be laid on the Table?

Lord BELPER said that he would make inquiries on the point. At all events a circular would be issued to all

the societies which would lay the suggestions down in definite terms. ["Hear, hear!"]

CHURCH PATRONAGE TRANSFERS BILL [H.L.].

Third Reading (which stands appointed for this day) put off to Friday next.

LAND LEGISLATION (IRELAND).

Debate on the Motion to resolve,

> 1st. That in the opinion of this House the time has arrived when, in the interests of justice, some compensation should be granted to landowners for the rights of which they have been deprived by the State;
>
> 2ndly. That some relief might equitably be afforded to landowners by granting State loans on the same terms as those given to land occupiers, to facilitate the purchase by the landlord of the tenant-right or goodwill of the occupier where he is willing to sell such interest, or for any other purposes sanctioned by Parliament.—(*Lord Inchiquin.*)

Resumed (according to order).

Lord CLONBROCK said that in resuming the Debate on his noble Friend's Motion, he felt himself in some embarrasment, as so very long a time had elapsed since, in deference to the wishes of many Peers, he moved the adjournment of the Debate, that the very able and exhaustive speech of his noble Friend could not be as fresh in the recollection of the House as it would have been had it been shortly followed by the resumption of the Debate. He trusted that under the circumstances he would not be accused of unnecessary repetition if he travelled over some of the ground his noble Friend Lord Inchiquin covered, and recalled to the attention of the House the various points and illustrations his hon. Friend adduced in support of his argument. The loss of which Irish landlords complained was not connected with the reduction of rents. It was often said that the reductions of rent in England were as great as those in Ireland, and that therefore the Irish landlords had nothing to complain of. The comparison was not a correct one, but it was sufficiently plausible to mislead those who were not thoroughly aware of the differences existing between the two countries; it was not a correct one, inasmuch as the reductions proceeded from a totally different source. In England the reductions undoubtedly proceeded from agricultural depression. But they were informed the other day, on the authority of the First Lord of the Treasury and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, that agricultural depression did not exist in Ireland in anything like the same extent as it did in England. The cause, therefore, of the reductions of rents must be sought elsewhere. The statement he had just referred to was made at the time the question of agricultural rates was before the House of Commons, and without expressing any opinion as to the merit of the great scheme then sketched out by the First Lord of the Treasury, he must candidly acknowledge the consideration the right hon. Gentleman extended to the landlords in the way he dealt with that subject. That, however, had nothing to do with the subject now under consideration. What was complained of was that the selling value of land in Ireland had been reduced from 22 or 23 years' purchase to 17, 16, or even 15 years' purchase. It was quite clear that that was independent of the reduction of rent. He must not be supposed to undervalue reduction of rent, which had struck terror into every landlord in Ireland—he merely said this was independent of it. If it were not there was no reason why the number of years' purchase should have varied, and property should have sold for the same number of years' purchase of the reduced rent as it formerly did of the higher rent. But now it was reduced from 22 or 23 years' purchase of the old rent to 17, 16, or 15 of the reduced rent. In other words, one-fourth of the fee-simple of the property of the landlord had been taken from him without compensation and transferred to the tenant. That was the effect chiefly of the Land Act of 1881, which introduced fixity of tenue and tenant-right, and he deeply regretted that last year Her Majesty's Government, by extending the operations of that Act and by bringing fresh holdings under its operation, set the seal of their approval on its provisions. Their Lordships could easily understand what the result of such depreciation of property, especially of encumbered property, must be. Mortgagees were trembling for their money; landlords were forced to sell, and driven from their properties and their homes. One sometimes hears the view expressed that the sooner property was transferred to the tenant the better; but he did not think that those who advocated that view had fully considered the results of its adoption, and he could not think such a view could be held by the Government. Whatever might be the future of land purchase in Ireland, whether, if we could look forward for 50 or 100 years, we should find, as seemed generally to be assumed, the land occupied by a prosperous and contented peasant proprietary, or whether, as some with perhaps no less knowledge of the country were disposed to fear, we should find that one or two thrifty men in each district had bought out the others, and that there were as many landlords in Ireland as now, and a great deal harder ones, whatever might be the issue of this great scheme, it surely could not be held to be an advantage that those who now constituted the land-owning class in Ireland should be utterly exterminated. It must surely be deemed preferable on the ground of expediency alone that there should be still left in the country some people of rather more education and culture than the ordinary agricultural class, to assist in administering the affairs of the country, and in other ways promoting its interests, and that a helping hand should be extended by the State to save those who had so grievously suffered by legislation from ruin and expatriation. It was, however, not on grounds of expediency that he appealed; he wished to urge the higher claim of justice. Tenant-right never before existed out of Ulster. In the other three provinces it was strictly guarded against.

His noble Friend (Lord Inchiquin) had informed the House that on his property the incoming tenant had to sign a paper certifying that no money had passed between him and the outgoing tenant, and that, nevertheless, a tenant who had taken a farm shortly before 1881 at £150 a year (subsequently reduced to £130) had a few years later sold the tenant-right for £1,250. He himself knew instances on a property with which he was intimately connected where the then landlord, finding that, behind his back, an incoming tenant had paid money to an outgoing one, reimbursed the new tenant for his outlay, saying that he was not going to have his property fined down in that fashion. In all the provinces, except Ulster, landlords had set their faces against any such buying and selling of their property. The transfer of one-fourth of the fee simple was a bonus to the sitting tenant, and to the sitting tenant alone. It was what he had never paid for, never had, and to which he could make no claim. Nor could it be justified by any increase in the letting value of the land consequent on the improvements by the tenant. He was the last man in the world to say that a tenant should not be compensated to the last farthing for any *boná fide* improvement, adding to the letting value, for which he had not received any return in money or money's worth. But when improvements were spoken of, deterioration must be taken into account. At the time of the Morley Select Committee he had been much surprised to find it generally assumed by the so-called Nationalist Members that the land had been generally improved by the tillage of the farmers. He had written to all the most experienced men in his county, and to some in Mayo and Roscommon. He received the same answer from all—that for one acre improved they could point to 100 deteriorated. It must be remembered that this was a country of small farms, where a man who paid £50 a year rent was considered a large farmer. But in all Ireland one-third of the agricultural holdings did not exceed 15 acres in area. He would not weary their Lordships with a long description of deterioration, but would only mention salient points. In former times the practice of burning the land had been so common that repeated Acts of Parliament were passed to prevent it. Later there had been the immoderate use of guano, which experienced agriculturists denounced as nearly as bad. Since then constant mowing, and selling the hay off the land, raising green crops with artificial manure, and selling them in the market, feeding young stock without top dressing, and other bad and careless husbandry had reduced the land to a far greater amount in value than that of any improvement by the tenant in buildings or otherwise. If a landlord should by any unforeseen circumstances regain possession of his property, and was rich enough and foolhardy enough to lay out money on Irish land, he would sweep away all the so-called improvements of the tenant, and by a long system of tillage try to get the land into decent condition. When Mr. Parnell's phrase of "prairie value" was used, he had heard landlords say, "Prairie value, I wish I could get my land back in its prairie state." This deterioration was well known to the tenants themselves. In 1877 when farming was a more prosperous business than now, a landlord in County Tipperary told him that some 60 year leases had just fallen in, and that he had proposed to the tenants to give them new leases at the old rent. They objected to the rent as being too high. He represented to them that as 1817 was a year of notorious agricultural depression, the rents then fixed could not be considered too high. Their answer was "Ah, but the land was new then!" showing how fully aware they were that the land had suffered under their treatment and that of their predecessors in title. He did not wish to speak hardly of these small tenants, they were a poor and uneducated set of men and knew no better, and if prejudiced and averse to new ideas, were not the only class of the agricultural community so constituted. Nor did he mean that there were no improving tenants, those in mountain and moorland districts must be placed in a different category. But it was not just 50 or 100 who have deterioriated their land should receive the treatment due to one or two who have improved it. He feared he was encumbering his remarks with a mass of detail, but things in Ireland, although nominally similar to things in England, differed so essentially from them that it was necessary to dwell on a number of small points. He believed his argument to be sound, if not let it be refuted. He called on the noble and learned Lord on the Front Bench, the Lord Chancellor for Ireland, who added to his profound legal knowledge an intimate acquaintance with everything in that country, to say whether one quarter of the fee simple of the landlord's property had not been transferred to the tenant, and whether that transfer could be justified on any equitable or economic grounds. This loss was not contemplated by the statesman who framed the Land Acts of 1870 and 1881. Mr. Gladstone said on April 4, 1870: —

> "The establishment of good laws will produce that sense of security on the part of tenants, and that disposition to invest capital in land, which will make the land in Ireland not worth merely 20 or 25 years' purchase, but will raise it altogether to, or nearly to, the value of land in England or Scotland."

On other occasions Mr. Gladstone repeatedly said that landlords would gain rather than lose by the Land Acts, and moreover that if they incurred any loss they were fully entitled to compensation. His noble Friend had quoted several passages from his speeches and other members of his Government. He also quoted from independent authorities, among others from the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack. From a remark of the noble and learned Lord he gathered that he had seen no reason to vary his opinion, and he therefore hoped they might hear his voice raised in support of their claims. The rights of property were always jealously safeguarded, except in this instance. If a few acres of a man's property were taken for any public work he was amply compensated. The cases were absolutely parallel. One fourth of the fee simple of their properties had been taken from them for a supposed public advantage, and it would be only just that in the event of a sale the difference in the selling value caused by legislation should be made up to the landlord by the State. In other cases loans should be granted to landlords at the same rate as now granted to tenants to enable them to pay off their incumbrances and save them from ruin. Neither would affect him personally, he had no incumbrances he was anxious to pay off, and he did not wish to sell his property. Wisely or unwisely his desire was to "stick to the ship." He wshed to keep up his present relations with those among whom the greater part of his life had been spent, and of whose conduct to himself he had nothing to complain; but he did appeal on behalf of many he knew in Ireland who were on the brink of ruin, through their Lordships' House to the people of England, to whose sense of justice, he believed no one appealed in vain, to listen to their just claim, and to save them from absolute ruin. ["Hear, hear!"]

*THE MARQUESS of LONDONDERRY said his noble Friend who introduced the Motion did so with such ability and so explicitly, that he hardly thought it was necessary for him to support his statements, and those statements had been so ably supported by his noble Friend who had just sat down that he felt some reluctance in trespassing on the time of the House. He would not, however, like it to go forth that these two noble Lords were not supported by the other landowners, not only in the House, but in all parts of Ireland, or that their views were not endorsed, that the ruin that was impending over the heads of a certain number of the landowning class in Ireland, was due, not to economic reasons, not to the depression of agriculture, but was due entirely to certain Acts of the Legislature, which in the words of his noble and learned Friend the Lord Chancellor of Ireland, had filched away their property. ["Hear, hear!"] He would not enter into the administration of the Land Acts of 1870 and 1881. He would not denounce or criticise those Acts, for, in the presence of two noble Lords opposite who were Members of the Government which passed these Acts, he would say that he believed they passed them in the sincere belief that the landowning class would not be injured by them, and that they never apprehended the danger that was in them. In corroboration of that belief, he would refer to some remarks of Mr. Bright, a leading Member of the then Cabinet, who said in regard to the Act of 1881—

> "My view is, that in reality the rents in Ireland will, for the most part, in nine cases out of ten, be fixed very much as they are now."

Mr. Forster, who was Chief Secretary when the Act was passed, said:—

> "The final result of the Measure will be that the landlords of Ireland, small and large, will be better off than they are at the present moment."

And Lord Carlingford, who represented the Irish Government in their Lordship's House said: "I maintain that the Bill will cause the landlords no money loss whatever," while Lord Selborne, the then Lord Chancellor, said:—

> "I deny that the Bill will in any degree whatever diminish the rights of the landlord or the value of his interest."

If it had not been for these assurances, the Land Act of 1881 would not only not have passed their Lordship's House, but it would not have pased the House of Commons. Consequently, he maintained that it was entirely due to these prognostications of prophecies that an Act was allowed to pass, which had brought almost to ruin the landowning class in Ireland, which he believed the Government of the day honestly meant to protect. He did not think that any one with any practical experience of Ireland would contradict him when he said that those prophecies had been entirely falsified. If any one proposed to contradict him he would refer him to a subsequent speech of the same Lord Chancellor, Lord Selborne, who advocated the Act of 1881 because he contended it could not be fraught with any danger to the landlords. Six years afterwards, in 1887, he found that Lord Selborne used the following expression, which endorsed to the hilt all he had said. Lord Selborne said:—

> "I would rather have cut off my hand than have been a party to the Measure of 1881, giving the House the reasons and assurances I then gave, if I had had a notion that within five years after its passing it would be thrown over by its authors."

After the quotations he had given, he thought their Lordships would allow that it was entirely due to Acts of the Houses of Parliament that the landowning interest in Ireland was placed in its present perilous and almost miserable condition. ["Hear, hear!"] Mr. Gladstone certainly said in 1881 that the landowning class were no longer landowners, but merely rent chargers; but they were not even the rent chargers he imagined them. They were the mere nominal proprietors of a rent charge which was gradually and surely diminishing. ["Hear, hear!"] Consequently he maintained that their condition was one which had never before been put on any class of the community. Land was constantly taken for the purpose of constructing a railway or enlarging a town, but full compensation was always paid. Could anyone say that one shilling of compensation had been given to the landowning class for the property which had been filched away from them? Compensation had never been denied to anyone whose property had been taken

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away from him. Mr. Gladstone himself, when he described the landowning class as rent chargers, said:—

> "The Legislature has, no doubt, a perfect right to reduce the landlord to that position, but," he added, "giving him proper compensation for any loss he may sustain in money."

And that statement was corroborated by Sir Roundell Palmer, and when it was seen that the gentleman who introduced the Act of 1881, declared that if property was taken away from him the owner should receive compensation, he maintained the landlords had a right to compensation at the hands of a Conservative Government, who opposed the Measure and declared that compensation was the just right of the man whose property was taken away. ["Hear, hear!"] There were Members of their Lordship's House who were Members of the House of Commons, and made most able speeches in opposition to the Act of 1881. His noble Friend the Lord Chancellor of Ireland addressed himself to this question with an ability which commanded the admiration of the Conservative Party, and he was supported by the present Lord Privy Seal. The latter said:—

> "You are going to take away something which has hitherto been considered as belonging to the landlord, and to hand it over to the tenant, and you are not going to pay the landlord anything for it. It comes to that, and I cannot for one moment imagine that in all these discussions the question of compensation has not entered into the minds of the Government. . . . . But that does not alter the question whether compensation ought to be given or not. All I can say is, give the tenant by all means the full value, if he wants it, of his improvement, but let us have a reckoning up. . . . . Let the Government say, 'As in all other cases where we take property from one man for the benefit of others, we offer you compensation, full, fair, and ample compensation, for the injury we undoubtedly do to your estates."

His noble and learned Friend below him said:—

> "Can any man say that the property of the Irish landlord is not damaged in the market to the extent of millions by this legislation? With certainty of reduction of rent, with a penalty on raising it, with the practical certainty of never resuming possession, I ask is there not a clear mutilation of property? is there not a distinct expropriation?"

If there was an expropriation at the hands of Parliament, the very least Parliament could do was to give compensation for it. These remarks were made by his two noble Friends when in Opposition. They were now in office. It remained to be seen whether they were prepared to carry out in office the pledges they gave in Opposition. ["Hear, hear!"] They might say, "We are not responsible for the Acts of 1870 and 1881." No, but they are responsible for the Act of 1896, and having taken upon themselves that responsibility, he maintained they were part and parcel of the Government who passed the other Acts. As they had aggravated the hardships of the landowners, they were as responsible as noble Lords opposite for the rectification of the expropriation of the landlords and the mutilation of their property. ["Hear, hear!"] His noble and learned Friend below him made many speeches on the Act of 1896, but he never heard him allude to the subject of compensation, and he would ask him why, if, in his own words, the Act of 1881 mutilated the landlords' property and expropriated them, when the Government were aggravating their hardships in 1896, he did not say one word as to compensation for that mutilation and expropriation. ["Hear, hear!"] It might be asked, What course could the Government pursue in order to mitigate the misfortunes of the landowners? The Irish landowning class were groaning at the present moment under various hardships. The question of tithe rent-charge pressed hardly and unduly in certain sections of the community. That was a fact which his noble and learned Friend would not contradict, and he thought it was his duty, as a Member of the Government, to see that some inquiry was made into the question of the hardships borne by the landowning class, with a view to ascertaining whether something could not be done to mitigate their sufferings. One important point was the question of ameliorating the condition of the land-owning class by advancing public money at a cheap rate of interest, so that the enormous charges which so many of them had now to pay might be reduced. Whilst the landlords' rents had been steadily reduced, their mortgages had remained the same. He did not suggest that the Government should ask the encumbrancers to reduce the interest due to them by one shilling, but he urged that the Government should advance money at 3 or 3½ per cent. to enable the landlords to pay off mortgages which were in many cases effected in a hurry and in moments of excitement at five per cent. or even more. The Government could do this without any risk to themselves—["hear, hear!"]—and thereby assist the landlords materially. If there was one characteristic for which the English people were well known, it was their sense of justice, and he believed that if the people thoroughly understood that one class in the community had been seriously injured, not through economic causes, but by Act of Parliament, they would be anxious to redress the landlords' grievance.

THE DUKE OF ARGYLL: I am very glad to understand from my noble Friends connected with Ireland that they do not intend to push this Motion to a Division. If they did, I should feel myself placed in great difficulty. I agree with every word in the Resolution considered on its own merits, but I doubt very much whether it would be expedient for this House, and to the interest of the supporters of the Motion, that we should adopt the Resolution in the formal way. I do not think that it would forward the cause of compensation by a single step. That compensation must be more or less pecuniary, and we have no power over the funds of the State. Then it might alienate in a measure the friendly disposition of the Government, to whose good will, after all, my noble Friends must trust. But I should think myself unworthy of the position which I hold in your Lordships' House if I did not take this opportunity of saying that with the words and spirit of the Resolution and the course of conduct to which it points I absolutely agree. I beg you to observe that there is not a word of censure against the Act of 1881 in this Resolution. I am anxious to point out that my advocacy of compensation in this case is entirely separate from my opinion of the merits or demerits of the Act of 1881. My opinion of that Act is well known to your Lordships, and I am not going to trouble the House by expressing it again. Many people are inclined to say, "Whatever were the demerits of the Act of 1881, it was conceded as an Act of political necessity." I do not agree that it was an act of political necessity, and my opinions are so strong, and, I hope, so clear, with regard to the principle of private rights, against which that Measure committed a gross and unjustifiable aggression, that I will never admit that it was a necessary act of public policy. But, admitting for a moment that that Measure was a necessary Act of public policy, that does not at all preclude, but rather strengthens, the claim for compensation put forward by the landlords. Look at what took place in 1846 under the Government of Sir Robert Peel when he granted the repeal of the Corn Laws as an act of public policy. No one can imagine that the agricultural interests in this country, that the landlords of England, Scotland, and Ireland, had a vested interest in the taxation of the country, taxation which had an indirect effect in protecting land. They had no such vested interest; but the Irish landlords had undoubtedly vested rights in the rental of their estates. Well, it was thought at that time that the granting of free trade would be a serious blow to the agricultural interest, and Sir Robert Peel offered large measures of compensation to the land-owning class. He proposed to grant a loan for agricultural purposes at a cheap rate, and this loan had an important effect in enabling us to meet the concussion caused by the change of system. I have reason to know myself the great value of that loan, for I had just succeeded to my property, and borrowed under that Act £10,000, which greatly relieved the pressure which was undoubtedly caused for a time by the introduction of Free Trade. This money was spent on my estates under Government inspection on the drainage and enclosure of land, and partly on the emigration of the overcrowded population of the Hebrides. There is an example of the public's coming forward to help an interest which was indirectly affected by a measure which was undoubtedly due to a consideration of the interests of the public. Now, what difference is there in this case? It was promised that the Act of 1881 should not be allowed to interfere with your Lordships' pecuniary interests The predictions of the Government of the day—they were my colleagues, but I did not believe one word that they said—[*laughter*]—their predictions have been falsified; and how have they been falsified? It is the fault of Parliament and of all parties that they have been falsified. I reminded your Lordships some weeks ago that in the Bill as it left the Cabinet there was a rule to guide the Commissioners in estimating rent. In June, when the Bill was in Committee, some one moved to strike out the words which directed that rent should be assessed as rent is assessed for the purpose of taxation. The Amendment was agreed to by the Government, and very few Members seemed to see that the mode of estimating rental was thereby left entirely in the discretion of the Commissioners. The Commissioners were without guidance, and there was no appeal. Each Commissioner was free to dispose of the property of the landlords of Ireland as he might please. It was not creditable that such an Act should have been passed by a civilised Parliament at the end of the 19th century. ["Hear, hear!"] There was only one Member, as far as I can find out, who foresaw what would happen and expressed his views, and he was Mr. (now Sir) John Gorst. He not only observed upon the point, but moved an Amendment which directed the Commissioners that they should take into consideration the market value of land in the country, the value of tenant rights, and so on. A long discussion followed upon that, and Mr. Arthur Balfour, a great Conservative leader, discounted it altogether, urging that you should allow the Court, so-called, absolutely free discretion! Your Lordships may think I am exaggerating the state of the law under which the Land Laws are administered. Look at these extracts from Mr. Morley's Committee. In 1894 the House of Commons, on the Motion of Mr. John Morley, appointed a Committee of which he was Chairman. That Committee was largely composed of Nationalist Members and English Radical Members, with a very small representation of the Unionist Party, and here is the Report which they arrived at, I believe unanimously, on the state of matters,—

> "As regards the powers of the Commissioners each individual administrator acts absolutely according to his own opinion of what may have been intended, and there is neither common understanding of the law nor anything approaching uniformity of practice."

["Hear, hear!"] Just conceive that state of things on the part of a body of men to whom you have given absolute power over the property of a large class of Her Majesty's subjects! No law whatever, no indication of the general principle even, on the part of Parliament, but everything left to the individual discretion of the Commissioners! Who were these men who were appointed? There were three gentlemen of high individual character, and I dare say if we are to restore the Star Chamber in our time such men would administer it quite as well as the men in the time of Charles I. [*Laughter.*] But I do not think that is the principle of civilised law. Look at what Justice O'Hagan said in opening the Court. He made a long speech ending with a Latin quotation the purport of which was that they were not a Court like any other Court, guided by known precedents and law, but they proceeded on their own discretion, in the darkness—*in tenebris*

But he encouraged the Court to go on with courage, and my Lords, they have and they have disposed of the property of the landlords precisely as they pleased. ["Hear, hear!"] What have you gained for all this? Have you gained the contentment of the tenant class? Not a bit. ["Hear, hear!"] They demand more, and they will demand all until they get all. [*Cheers.*] They openly avow that they wish the landlord class to be swept out of Ireland. Have your Lordships read the letter addressed to Lord Salisbury by the Ulster Land Committee? They are just as discontented as the landlords, and in this remarkable document they say there is no law guiding these decisions, that the Comissioners have laid down certain laws of their own, that the Ulster farmers are not, therefore, receiving justice in the Land Courts, a state of matters which deserves the grave attention of Her Majesty's Government. So that it is not the landlords only who ask for an inquiry, but the tenants, and they say, with just as much reason, that "We do not agree with the principles, if there are any, by which these men are guided, and we are suffering injustice." You have not gained the confidence of the tenant class. It may be asked, what are the principles which they themselves would lay down? I will tell you one principle which these Ulster gentlemen lay down. They defend the tenant class against the accusation that they give extravagant prices for tenant right. It is not right to pay extravagant rents, but it is quite right to bid large capital sums for tenant right—that is glorious enterprise—only these extravagant prices ought to be charged against the landlord. When they bid a sum notoriously above the value of all the improvements, then the interest in respect of this sum is to be deducted from the landlord's rent. That is, the Irish tenants are to be encouraged in the wildest speculations, and the interest on the loans for these speculations are to be charged on the landlord's rent. These are the principles you have let loose on the land; you have laid down no others, and you have opened the door to all these absurd demands from all classes interested. That is what you have done, and how they are to be allayed again I do not know. My own view is—you ought to take into consideration the grave injustice you have done by legislation which is scandalously unjust, and against all the interests of civilisation and the principles and practice of all civilised States. You ought, in consideration of the sufferings which have been brought upon the landlords which you did not expect, which you predicted would not take place—I do not say you ought to compensate as you did the slave owners in Jamaica by a sum of money, but you ought to consider now far, without burdening the public, you may by cheap loans do what you have so largely done in the case of the tenants to enable the landlords to recover their position in Ireland. ["Hear, hear!"] With regard to the purchase of land, is it not an absurd state of things that you hold out a bonus to people to buy land in Ireland, but only to one class? You hold out a great bonus to the tenants to buy land, but you hold out no bonus to any other class. Is that consistent with common sense? Are there no men with capital in Ireland not now connected with land, who would make good owners if encouraged to buy with security of tenure? Surely there are. I think the State ought to give cheap loans to the landlords as well as the tenants, to enable them, if possible, to recover their position in the country, and that, in my opinion, is the only way in which you can restore peace or contentment to Ireland. [*Cheers.*] In the meantime, the Government have announced the issue of another Commission. I have no hope that that Commission will do more, but that will be something, if they reiterate the finding of Mr. Morley's Commission, if they establish by incontestible evidence that no principle whatever has guided these men; and that, under circumstances precisely similar, in different parts of the country they have given a different decision, ruinous to one class, largely to the gain of another. ["Hear, hear!"] If the new Commission establishes these facts, it will be an additional claim upon Parliament and the public to help landlords who are suffering. [*Cheers.*] Even if this should not be the result, if the Land Act of 1881 be regarded—as I can never regard it—as an innocent concession to public necessity, even in that case you will, I hope, follow the example of Sir Robert Peel—and give what amelioration you can to the class which has suffered for the interests of the public. [*Cheers.*]

*THE EARL OF MAYO thanked the noble Duke for having said what he had done on behalf of the Irish landlords. On the question of compensation what, he asked, was meant by it?

> "It is made for some positive injury sustained. Justice requires that it should be equal in value, if not like in kind, to that which is lost or injured."

The law of compensation was admitted in 1833, when twenty millions was granted to the planters whose slaves were set free. Lord Althorp, the Chancellor of the Exchequer on that occasion said:—

> "The circumstances it was proposed to meet were unusual and without precedent."

He submitted to their Lordships that the circumstances now were unusual and without precedent. In 1845 in Lands Clause Acts, compensation for land value was allowed, and in the Railway Clauses Consolidation Acts, 1845, it was also taken into consideration. This was no new question. It was raised by Lord Inchiquin in 1881, and by Lord Castletown in '84. Since then the landlords' properties had gradually vanished and gone to the best protected tenant in the world. He said let the tenant be well protected, but this protection was carried out solely at the expense of the landowner. Adopting simple and non-legal language, let him tell their Lordships how the Irish tenant was protected. He could not be disturbed in his tenancy so long as he paid the rent fixed for him by an independent tribunal; his rent was fixed by Commissioners appointed by Statute and not by his landlord; he had absolute power of dealing with his holding by sale or otherwise; he could purchase his holding with money provided by Government; he repaid the money so provided by a terminable annuity, perhaps over 60 per cent. less than his old rent, and probably 30 to 36 per cent. less than the judicial rent. In the landlords' case an independent tribunal fixed his rents every 15 years and reduces them. The landlord had no power to deal with the tenant's holding; he had not the power of pre-emption or resumption; the Government provided no money to landowners for the same purposes as the tenant was provided with money for; the Government lent money to tenants at a low rate of interest. Landowners had no such facilities, except perhaps to drain lands, which lands the sub-commissioners could reduce the rent of. Not only had they to pay the interest on the loans, but they had also to suffer from the reduction of the Sub-Commissioners every fifteen years. The Sub-Commissioners began reducing rents for the second term in July last in Co. Armagh by 50 per cent., and they had gone gaily on in the same strain. Lord Templetown raised a debate in July last on this question, when he said he wished to know on what principle the Sub-Commissioner reduced the rents. The Lord Chancellor's (Lord Halsbury's) answer was instructive:—

> "What he would point out was, that the Government were as powerless as the noble Lord himself to discern what were the principles upon which the Commissioners had acted. The wisdom of Parliament had confided to them that duty, and the Government could not be expected to dive into the minds of the Commissioners and find out what were the principles on which they had proceeded."

They could not find out, they did not wish to undertake that duty, they were not guided by any principles, they were not guided by prices, but people who acted without principles should have their procedure inquired into. That was admitted, and there was to be a Royal Commission to inquire into the procedure, and Irish landlords would see that proper evidence was laid before that Commission. This was not the only reason they had for speaking out. They had spoken on several occasions, they had spoken before a Government of the Party to which he belonged, and before a Government of the Party now in opposition; but no notice whatever had been taken of their representations. They had spoken on every matter connected with property in Ireland, and at last they had a word of sympathy from the present Prime Minister, who said to the deputation introduced by the Duke of Abercorn in March last:—

> "In the days in which we live the class that does not complain is a class that will go to the wall. I commend these thoughts to you. I believe if you are suffering under injustice—

and on this occasion I am not competent to express an opinion—but if you are suffering under injustice the remedy is in your own hands by taking care that injustice is not committed in a corner."

A great many things were done in corners in Ireland of which there was little public knowledge. The Sub-Commissioners acted in a corner. The Prime Minister had given the cue, he had struck a chord and given the tune to play. He was the leader, and they would keep time and tune together and play fortissimo—there would be no piano movements. ["Hear!"] Then as to the question of compensation. Injustice had been done, that everybody would have to admit. Property had been taken away, by a stroke of the pen, to the extent in his own case of £800 a year, and in many other cases of 15, 20, and 30 per cent. There were just laws and there were unjust laws. Irish ladies and gentlemen had drained the bitter cup to the very dregs. He supposed it would be of no use his saying how people had been ruined, how ladies and gentlemen had not bread to put into their mouths, and had a desperate future before them. In discussing this question of compensation he did not in any way wish to "come down on the English taxpayer." There need be no fear about that, especially after what the Chancellor of the Exchequer had said in the commencement of his Budget speech when he spoke of being on the crest of a wave of prosperity such as this country had never experienced before. The Chancellor of the Exchequer sailed in a gilded ship upon a golden ocean, but the wave of prosperity did not touch the Irish shore, none of this prosperity reached the Irish landlord, nor the tenants. English law ground slowly, but it ground exceedingly small. What was the outlook for the Irish landowners?

> "Like hard-pressed men, they were forced back against a wall built of Irish Land Acts, each stone of which was securely laid by English Parliamentary ingenuity. Through or over it there was no escape, and the Sub-Commissioners pressed close and hard."

Was it the intention of Her Majesty's Government to let matters go on as now? Did they mean to ruin the Irish gentry and root them out? Was that the policy of the Government, as it seemed to have been of English statesmen since 1881? Was that what they were to look to? Did the Prime Minister and the present Government remember the Irish Unionist alliance and the last General Election? Did they remember how the Irish Unionists helped to bring the Government into power? Did they forget Brigg and Forfar? Eighty per cent. of the men who did the work for the Government and gave financial support, were Irish Unionists and landowners, and when the Alliance did not go down to the constituency those elections were lost. There was no gratitude in politics, and they expected none, but they liked to remind the Government of what they had done. They killed Home Rule, they saved the country from that, and Irish Unionists had a great deal to do with bringing the Government into power. In another place the First Lord of the Treasury had announced that local government was to be granted to Ireland with between £700,000 and £800,000 to carry it out. Who had carried on the local government of Ireland up to this? The country gentlemen. They did their duty in local affairs, this sum was now handed over to make the scheme workable, still the Sub-Commissioners went round surely and quickly ruining the gentry. It was well said by a northern landowner, "Mr. Balfour gives me £40 a year, and the Sub-Commissioners have taken away £400." If they were ruined the gentry could take no part in local government. Of course the Government could leave local government to the men who now ruled on Boards of Guardians, and what they were was well known. He did not wish to abuse the other section of his fellow countrymen; there was no need to say anything of them. Irish landlords were more impressed by existing calamities than by the calculations and machinations of a distant and comprehensive intelligence. They felt that while the Government announced Local Government as a boon, the Sub-Commissioners were still at work. Of the Land Commission administered by three men, the Dublin wits said, "One cannot hear, one will not hear, and the other is never here." Given the best Land Commission in the world, they had to administer laws such as existed in no other country. Property was taken away by the process gone through without any compensation whatsoever. Constitutional Governments knew of no such Land Laws as existed in Ireland at the present time. Even representatives of the people of Ireland admitted that, and had allowed that "some compensation was due to the Irish landlords." The men who admitted this were men whose policy was separation from England, and the case must be hard indeed to call forth this admission. This question would be raised again. This was not the time to divide. They had pledged themselves not to divide; the time was not opportune, but at the proper time they would ask for the support of English Lords. The land question was approaching their borders very closely. There had been a Crofter Commission for Scotland, and this Session a Welsh Land Bill had been introduced, but not passed he was thankful to say. The question of compensation need not frighten English taxpayers. The easiest and most simple way would be the use of public money at a cheap rate. That was given to the tenants, and in all fairness why should it not be allowed to landlords? At the proper time a scheme would be put forward and the Government be asked seriously to consider this question of compensation. Next year the Local Government Bill would be brought on, and country gentlemen in Ireland having had their property taken away, would be deprived of the little influence they had in local affairs. Democracy would rule; but if the country gentlemen were to be submerged, at least some consideration should be given to the claim for compensation. The demand would be made of the Legislature, and it remained to be seen what the reply would be. They would ask to be granted some relief from the benevolent tyranny under which they lived.

*The LORD CHANCELLOR of IRELAND (Lord Ashbourne): The series of Statutes that go to make up the Irish Land Laws readily lend themselves to discussion. It is a novel code, and I suppose no Statute ever placed on the Statute-book more readily lends itself to criticism than the Land Act of 1881. It has supplied themes to all my noble Friends who have spoken to-night, and it has sustained a very vigorous attack from the noble Duke. I should indeed be in a strange position if I felt myself called upon to defend the Act of 1881. It was my duty in the House of Commons to take an active part in opposing the Bill in its entirety and in criticising its various clauses; therefore, it would not be possible for me to-night, unless I admitted that I had changed my mind and the views I then deliberately expressed, to stand forward as a supporter and defender of that Act. What I said in 1881 I thought; my thoughts I firmly expressed; and I do not feel called upon to qualify or apologise for anything I then said. On that occasion, on one side, there were the expressions of hope that the Act would not do as much harm as was anticipated to the landlords, and, on the other side, there were the expressions of fear that, notwithstanding the benevolent intentions of those who put forward the Bill it would do violence to rights, and that it would lead to a substantial interference with views that had been theretofore held sacred with reference to property. Many, amongst others myself, expressed gloomy anticipations in reference to the working of some of its clauses, but Parliament, in its wisdom, passed by the arguments of the Opposition—they did not hearken to the fears and they gave great faith to the hopes—and, by large majorities, passed the Bill into an enactment. I remember well the portion of the Act of 1881, so pointedly brought into notice by the noble Duke in reference to the withdrawal of any attempts to supply any special guide to the fixing of fair rents by the tribunal that was then set up. ["Hear, hear!"] Whatever may be the criticism of the Statute it has now been on the Statute-book for nearly 16 years, and it has been dealt with and amended by other Statutes, and it impossible now to call upon Parliament to ignore its provisions or to say that they can be set at naught and a repeal introduced in reference to them. That is the position that we, as practical men, have to face. It opens a wide, an immense question of a most far-reaching character to suggest that its provisions should be regarded as open to the principle of a general compensation in respect of its working and operation. It was obviously a far-reaching question, involving not only possibly claims for millions, but also an amount of detailed examination which possibly has not been present to the minds of many who have used the expression. Are you to retry, and if so by what tribunal, each fair-rent case in order to see how far it was not fair and how far it should have stopped short before the reduction was made? These are points of consideration which go to show the greatness and the intricacy of the question, as well as the vastness of the dimensions of the topic. The noble Duke, when he dealt with the question and referred in tones of sympathy to the discussion which has taken place, gave it as his clear opinion that it would be unwise to ask Parliament to pass a Resolution upon the subject, although it would be reasonable and fair, and not without a purpose, to discuss the topics which are involved in an examination of the Irish Land Code and this Act of 1881. As I understood, the noble Duke suggested that it was not desirable to seek to place upon the Order Book of your Lordships' House any stereotyped Resolution such as that brought forward, and that it was more prudent to have a discussion which may have a sympathetic aspect and which may lead to considerations that would induce Parliament to look favourably on those who allege that they have suffered by the provisions of the Act of 1881. The particular suggestion in the second part of the Motion of my noble Friend that advances should be made for the purchase of the tenant-right by the landlord is obviously an extremely difficult topic. It is one that requires an immensity of examination, and the more it is looked into the more it will be found to be surrounded by difficulties and complexities. The entire purchase code of Ireland rests upon the suggestion that it is desirable to make advances to occupying tenants to enable them to become the proprietors of their holdings. The suggestion involved in the latter part of the Motion would indicate not that the number of occupying proprietors should be increased, but that occupying tenants should be lessened by making advances to the landlord which would enable him, by buying up the tenant right, again to clothe himself with dominion over the property.

THE DUKE OF ARGYLL: I never dreamt of stopping the power now held by the tenants of getting assistance from the State to buy their farms. I only

meant that, in addition to that, the landlord should also be allowed to acquire the tenant-right where it is in the market.

*THE LORD CHANCELLOR OF IRELAND: Again, the topics do not become more simple, because, in buying up tenant-rights in Ireland, I suppose one of the most extraordinary things that strikes any one acquainted with Irish affairs is the enormous sums that are given for tenant right. [*Cheers.*]

THE DUKE OF ARGYLL: Sometimes.

*THE LORD CHANCELLOR OF IRELAND: They are given very largely. ["Hear, hear!"] One of the matters most worthy of note in this difficult Irish land problem is that very often the sums given for tenant-right are entirely out of all proportion with what we would conceive to be the value of the interest that was bought. ["Hear, hear!"] It becomes, obviously, a difficult question to suggest that the State should step in and assist some one to buy up a commodity where the price was regulated not by mercantile principles, but by that land hunger and greed and desire to possess land that so often cause these immense prices to be given.

*LORD CASTLETOWN pointed out that if the Land Commissioners would carry out the instructions they were given—namely, to fix in every case the value of the tenant-right, there would be no question of the tenant-right being abnormally high, because they would fix it, they assumed, on the true agricultural value.

*THE LORD CHANCELLOR OF IRELAND: That would not meet the particular point I am on. I am not for a moment going into the detail of it. I am only indicating that it is an immense question and not at all as simple as it looks. The suggestion that the State should enable the landlord to buy up the tenant-right does rather look at the question from the opposite point of view to that which is adopted in the whole purchase code, where the idea that underlies it all is the desirability and the utility from the public point of view of increasing the number of tenant occupying purchasers. Lord Londonderry suggested another point for sympathetic treatment, and that was in reference to the tithe rent-charge. That is a matter of great importance, and I have always been anxious to see it dealt with in a reasonable and sympathetic spirit. I gather the suggestion is put forward by my noble Friend, as other suggestions have been, as an indication of the matters in which a fairly reasonable and sympathetic consideration might possibly be given to the claims of the landlords, whilst at the same time feeling the enormous difficulty of presenting, as a topic for satisfactory or practical consideration, that of giving compensation for the working of an Act which has been in operation for so many years. My noble Friend Lord Londonderry suggested that my noble Friend the Marquess of Lansdowne, who was in charge of the Bill last year, then expressed an opinion in favour of the reduction of interest on charges. That is a mistake. My noble Friend says his remark was in reference to the short period of time whilst the purchase was waiting completion, and that he suggested whether in that very short period of time there might not be some consideration as to whether less interest might be taken. It did not have the wide character indicated by Lord Londonderry. The topics involved here are of very great and acute interest to every one connected with Ireland and Irish land. A Commission is about to be started to enter on the inquiry that was stated in the House of Commons on Friday night, and I assume that the topics as to the working of the land code will be examined. I quite feel and admit that, though the Land Act of 1881 is upon the Statute-book, every one must desire that it should be administered fairly and reasonably—[*cheers*]—that every fair play should be given to all, and that it should in its working be carried out in a way so as to show every one that the desire was really to fix a rent that was fair and to carry out what was just to all. [*Cheers.*]

*LORD CASTLETOWN thought the noble and learned Lord who had just spoken had not dealt with the exact point brought forward by the Lord Inchiquin. The noble and learned Lord went into the question of the Land Act of 1881, but he did not think that was the point they desired particularly to raise. They claimed that now they saw the actual effects of the Act of 1881 they were entitled to compensation, and if they could prove that by bringing forward cases, then he thought they had a fair ground of argument. Lord Mayo referred to the Motion he brought forward in 1884, and Lord Kimberley, who answered him at that time for the Government of the day, used some words which were worth calling to mind. In answering that Motion, which was for compensation indirectly, Lord Kimberley said:—

> "If the Government had stepped in for some reason of policy of its own and, without there being any difficulty in obtaining their rents, had simply said, 'We think it necessary to pass an Act that will have the effect of producing rent,' and if in that cases there had been no compensation given for such reduction, that would have been confiscation. It could not be argued that any portion of this loss had been caused by the Act in the sense that if it had not passed the landlords would not have suffered this loss."

Thirteen years had passed away since then, and, of course, although he brought up at that time a great number of cases which proved that great ruin and suffering had fallen upon Irish landlords, the cases naturally now were more numerous and, he thought, more patent and clear. He thought he could show that proprietorial rights had actually been taken away from Irish landlords without any compensation. He did not propose to base his argument only on the cases that he should cite to their Lordships, but he would call as witnesses the noble Marquess, the Prime Minister, and the noble Marquess, the Secretary of State for War, both of whom spoke on the Second Reading of the Bill of 1881. He thought he should be able to make it clear that if the State for State purposes took away any right or any property from any person, whatever his class, the State should fully compensate that person. In a very remarkable speech on the Second Reading of the Bill of 1881 the present Secretary of State for War said:—

> "It is an attempt to quell an agrarian rebellion by the wholesale concession of proprietary rights to the peasantry of Ireland, a concession which has been extorted by violence and agitation. These rights you are asked to create."

The noble Marquess went on to say:—

> "We are going to divide that which until now has been the property of single person between that person and another, and having divided it, you are going to say to the one, 'The value of your share shall be closely restricted and confined by a tribunal to which

we are going to hand you over,' and to the other, 'You shall be free to dispose of your share to the highest bidder in the open market."

Those words were absolutely prophetic. ["Hear, hear!"] Estates on which improvements had been made by the landlords—and there were a great many of such estates in Ireland—were treated exactly in the same way as estates on which no improvements were made by the landlord. His father expended nearly £200,000 in improving his estate. The rents were reduced exactly in the same manner, almost in the same percentage, as the rents on contiguous estates on which no improvements had been made by the landlord. Practically, rights which the noble Marquess said were to be created were deducted from the improvements and from the *corpus* of the estate and were handed over to the tenant. Therefore, he maintained that under those circumstances he, as the successor of his father, was entitled to some compensation. In the Debate on the Bill of 1881, the present Prime Minister said:—

> "The noble Lord seems to think this is quite reasonable (the Bill of 1881). Say I took a man five years ago, and put him into a bit of my park, which I turn into a farm. I gave him no promise, no right to sell the tenancy which he receives. He took it on the clear understanding that he was a tenant from year to year, liable to be evicted, and to have his rent raised according to any agreement to which we might come. He took it under the full understanding that he was liable to leave it. Then this Act comes suddenly down and transfers to him all the rights which he did nothing to earn, nothing to purchase, and which rights are taken away from me."

That was a most remarkable statement, and there were many cases in Ireland in which what was there stated had actually happened. There was the case of his own farm. In 1881 that farm was held by a Scotchman, who had made no improvements. The whole of the buildings belonged to the landlord. The Act of 1881 was passed, and then the farm practically belonged to the Scotchman. The farm was held by what was called a year to year tenancy, and he was told by counsel that he had no right to interfere. The end of it was that he had to pay the Scotchman £1,500 to leave the farm, who had spent nothing on it, but in reality allowed it to deteriorate. Surely if there was any case for compensation that was the one. He had been informed of the case of an agricultural tenancy. A grass farm of about 100 acres was held from year to year. The landlord unluckily made no attempt to make any change before the Act of 1881. He found that the farmer had for four or five years meadowed the farm. The man went on doing that for seven years, and then the landlord said he must sell the farm, as it was being run out. Counsel, however, advised the landlord that he could not do anything, as the moment the Act of 1881 was passed the farm practically belonged to the tenant, so long as he paid his rent. "If you evict him," said Counsel, "he has the right to sell his interest or, at any rate, he can force you into Court. Your best plan is to buy back the farm," and the landlord gave the man £2,000 for the farm. There were many other similar cases, but at that late hour of the evening he would not weary their Lordships by citing them. One case, however, he particularly wished to mention, it related to drainage charges and was typical of many others. The rent of the farm before the Act of 1881 was passed was £24, and there was a drainage charge of £8. 5s., making a total of £32. 5s. The tenant applied to have his rent fixed, but he waited until 1892. The rent was fixed at £17, but on appeal raised to £78, and the drainage charge of £8. 5s. was placed on the landlord's shoulders. The new rent was, therefore, £9. 15s., as against £32. Such cases could be multiplied by hundreds. Surely when that was the case one might use the words which Mr. Balfour, when speaking in the House of Commons upon an Amendment made by the House of Lords, and relating to the possibility of carving tenant-right out of the rent used, namely,—

> "If this amendment was not raised, the Bill would be open to the charge of being a scheme of public plunder."

The noble Lord who had just sat down said that the Act was on the Statute Book and must remain there. But surely the landlords were justified in claiming compensation for the injury the Act had inflicted upon them. Many more cases might be cited which bear out the facts that I have brought forward, but I will not weary the House by going into them in detail. Noble Lords who have already spoken have referred to the compensation given to slave-owners and to those whose property is taken by the State under the Railway Acts, or through compulsory Acts of Parliament. The great ground landlords of England will receive thousands of pounds in compensation if a railway runs under their house. The landlords of Ireland receive no compensation when the Sub-Commissioners scamper over their properties, reduce the value of those properties by 30 or 40 per cent., or when an Act of Parliament like that of 1881 deprives the Irish landlords of proprietorial rights and reduces the value of the *corpus* of the estate by many thousands of pounds. The property taken by the State should be paid for by the State, and those landlords who have suffered loss and ruin in the cause of State necessity and for purposes of State expediency should be compensated by the action of the State. I will quote again the words of the present Secretary of State for War in his remarkable speech on the Second Reading of the Bill of 1881. His words were:—

> "It is an attempt to quell an agrarian rebellion by the wholesale concession of proprietory rights to the peasantry of Ireland, a concession which has been extorted by violence and agitation. These rights you are asked to create."

The rights he refers to have been exacted and extorted from and out of the property of the Irish landlords, and I maintain if there is any justice in any case whatsoever, and if the State is not to be allowed to rob with impunity any class, however unrepresented in Parliament, however weak or few in numbers, then I am clear that every right-thinking man within the Empire will demand that the Irish landowners shall receive that compensation to which they are justly and fully entitled.

*THE EARL OF BELMORE said there was a very important question which he proposed to bring before their Lordships shortly—ecclesiastical tithe rent-charge. What he proposed to ask their Lordships on an early day to do was, to pray Her Majesty to appoint a Royal Commission to consider and report—(1) To what extent the payers of ecclesiastical tithe rent-charge in Ireland (exclusive of cases where the tithe rent-charge has been purchased for cash) are reasonably entitled to a reduction in the present annual amount of such tithe rent-charge (including the amount of annuities in cases where the tithe rent-charge has been commuted), having regard (1) to the fall in the amount of the tithe rent-charge in England during recent years; (2) to the fall in the market price in Ireland of the articles on which such tithe rent-charge was originally fixed; (3) to the reductions of lay tithe rent-charge which have been made on this basis in Ireland; and (4) upon any other grounds. (2) Whether, and to what extent, such ecclesiastical tithe rent-charge could be reduced or extinguished at the present time (or at some future date) without material prejudice to the security of the loans at present charged upon the Irish Church estate. On previous occasions when he had brought this subject forward, what he had asked for was a readjustment respecting tithe annuities, which had been partly granted in the Land Act of 1896. What he now meant to ask for was something different; and would demand previous inquiry, as would any of the proposals which had been made by his noble Friends, and which he allowed would be full of difficulties, were practical effect to be sought to be given to them. He should not, however, go into the matter now, but he trusted the Government would give it their consideration during the recess.

*LORD INCHIQUIN deplored the fact that the strongest Government they had had for many years had not the backbone to inquire into this question. If they had said they would give it their consideration he would have been content, but they had not even gone so far. They had avoided meeting the case, and he could only express his deep regret at the action of the Government. It was very questionable whether a division should be taken, because if this question were dealt with at all, it must be dealt with in the House of Commons. They perfectly well knew that, and for that very reason they said, "No, we should prefer to make our case good here, and allow the Government to consider what they will do." If this Government which was so strong could turn round and say, "We know this injury has been done, but we are not prepared to deal with it," then he said it was a blot on the English escutcheon which had never yet appeared on it. ["Hear, hear!"] With regard to the second Resolution, there was no difficulty. Landlords, when they could find the money, had plenty of facility for buying up the tenant right. The difficulty in all this legislation was that this unfortunate dual ownership had been established, and all he proposed was that as money was lent to the tenant in order to buy out the landlord, money should be lent to the landlord with which to buy out the tenant, and so to get the land into one hand. ["Hear, hear!"] The purchaser would then be in possession of his own property and would be able to get the market value for it. Her Majesty's Government rode off on subjects which had nothing to do with the question. They said, "We are going to have a Commission to inquire into the fixing of rents." It was like cutting a man's head off and then inquiring what way it was done. [*Laughter.*] It mattered very little to the man in what way his head was taken off. The landlords were asking for compensation for the past, not for the future. The question had nothing whatever to do with procedure. Then there was another point. Mr. Balfour the other day put forward in the House of Commons proposals he said he would carry out next year, with reference to the Poor Rate and other matters, and they were asked to say whether that would not make up something for the losses they had sustained. How could they say that until they saw the Bill? ["Hear, hear!"] All he could say was that to those who had been ruined it would matter very little what the Poor Rate was when they were in the workhouse. ["Hear, hear!"] It was on their behalf and on behalf of those on the point of ruin that he asked their Lordships and the Government to give earnest and anxious consideration to the proposition he had put before them. ["Hear, hear!"]

Viscount CLIFDEN said he was sorry to disagree with anything the noble Lord had said. Everything the noble Lord had said pointed to this, that he now knew he had made a mistake in not dividing. He had had something like 45 years' experience and he never knew a Government that cared 2d. for speeches: but they did care for divisions, particularly if they went against them. ["Hear, hear!"] He would first say to those who so nobly supported them last year, that he hoped they would not deteriorate from the hitherto good character of Englishmen for being fond of justice. Not one word had been said by the Government to refute the arguments brought forward. His hon. Friends had proved their case up to the hilt so far, and the Government had not attempted to disprove that gross injustice had been done, from 1881 to 1896. If they thought they were quieting Ireland by their shilly-shallying, wretched, and unjust policy, he would only ask them to read the Irish papers, where they would see the elaborate preparations that were being made for the centenary of the year '98.

Viscount TEMPLETOWN wished to say one or two words in support of the compensation claimed by the noble Lord. It was well known in Ireland that he had always been in favour personally of an inquiry into the case for compensation to Irish landlords. It was perfectly evident that the sense of justice appealed to so ably was not necessarily dead in this country because at this moment the Government did not see their way to deal with the matter; but he hoped he might be allowed to express the wish that the Government might yet see the advisability of saying one word of consolation to their Irish followers who had stood by them in the past, and satisfy them that if they could not meet the wishes of the landlords, they would at least inquire into their grievances as soon as they could, with a view to the amelioration of their condition. Just as their Lordships laid it down last year that if a man's property was taken from him, he was entitled to an account, it might be said that if the Irish landlords could show a just title to the balance at the foot of that account, he was entitled to receive it. ["Hear, hear!"]

Viscount MIDLETON thought that something more was due from the Government. It was, perhaps, too late to discuss the most unfortunate principles accepted by Parliament in 1881, in spite of every protest that could be made by those who were best acquainted with the subject, and on the assurance of the author of the Measure that if any injustice should be worked by it, compensation would be given. He was very sorry to see so little sympathy from the opposite Benches from those who were parties to the Measure, and who were in honour bound to fulfil the pledge of the Leader of their Government. He always thought it was unfortunate that a sweeping Measure of that kind should have been introduced by a septuagenarian statesman whose political life could hardly be expected to be sufficiently prolonged to enable him to see the outcome of his Measure. One safeguard Mr. Gladstone did introduce in favour of the landlords, but unfortunately withdrew it because the Irish landlords did not at once grasp at it. It was not too late, however, to speak of the machinery of the Act. The real truth was that there did not exist in Ireland in sufficient numbers a class of men whose impartiality and knowledge of land could be trusted, from which to draw the Sub-Commissioners. The result was that among them were many broken-down farmers to whom £800 a year was a dream of plenty which never entered into their wildest calculations. Not only that, in consequence of the very proper rule that men should not be employed in their own districts, men who might be competent to put a valuation on land with which they were acquainted, were sent, perhaps, from the South of Ireland to judge land in the North, about which they knew about as much as he did of land in the South of France. That was not a satisfactory state of things, especially when it was remembered that their decisions were practically without appeal, for latterly the Commissioners had always affirmed the decisions of the Sub-Commissioners. Therefore the landlords had been handed over to a tribunal from which there was no appeal, and which might or might not be competent to decide the facts with which it had to deal. In a copy of *The Irish Farmers' Gazette* the scale of prices was given on which Sir R. Griffith's valuation was made in the South of Ireland in 1852, and the figures were brought down to 1895. Sir R. Griffith's valuation was made avowedly on the principle that it was for the purpose of taxation only, and the rents fixed were from 20 to 25 per cent. below the letting value. The tenants, however, knew the value of land better than anybody else, and before 1881 surreptitious sub-letting—which was not unknown now—went on extensively, and the rents which the tenants asked one another varied from 35 to 40 per cent. above Sir R. Griffith's valuation. The prices of agricultural produce—including live stock—upon which Sir R. Griffith made his valuation, were in most cases 10 per cent., in some 15, and in some even 20 per cent. above the prices of 1895. The only exceptions were the present slightly lower prices of wheat and potatoes. But notwithstanding all this, the average rents which were now fixed by the Sub-Commissioners—especially on estates on which the farms had always been let at low rents—were sometimes 5 per cent., sometimes 10, and sometimes 15 per cent. below Sir R. Griffith's valuation. Was this fair or just? He had had practical experience of farming on both sides of the Channel. In England the difficulty in many districts was to let the land; in Ireland the difficulty all over the country was to get it. The attempt had been made to destroy the principle of market value, and to find some other method of ascertaining the proper rent. But market value was a thing one could not change. "*Naturam expellas furca; tamen usque recurret.*" On behalf of the Irish landlords he appealed with some confidence to both sides of the House. He reminded noble Lords opposite that they were bound by the pledge given by their own Leader that if injustice were caused, and the value of the landlords' property seriously diminished, redress would be granted by Parliament. To Her Majesty's Government he would say, "To throw your friends to the wolves is a very easy process, no doubt, but it rarely pays in the long run, and it is not a process which can be indefinitely repeated." [*Laughter.*] It would be very hard if no further assurance were given by the Government with regard to future legislation. What the Lord Chancellor of Ireland had said was very cold comfort indeed. A word as to the remedies for the grievous straits in which the landlords were. There was the monstrous injustice of the tithe rent-charge, which was never worth more than from 17 to 19 years' purchase, but which was fixed upon the landlords at 22½ years' purchase, and which was kept at that rate, although the value of money had fallen and the interest on Government loans had been reduced. That was one direction in which a remedy for these grievances might be found. Another way would be to advance money to the Irish landlords at a reasonable interest for the purpose of paying off his charges or of buying up the tenant right—the money being advanced on the same terms as those which were enjoyed at present by the tenants. These were not unreasonable proposals, and he thought they might have been received by the Government in a more generous spirit. If the existing state of things were permitted to continue, it would be impossible for any Irish landlord to make improvements; the power of doing good would be taken from him. The control of his estate had already been taken from him, and the power of spending money to good purpose was also being taken from him rapidly. And as to the class, or rather limited portion of a class, to whom the property of the landlords had been transferred by the Act of 1881, were they one whit more loyal, more capable, more energetic, more inclined to spend money in the land than their predecessors? No one could say that they were. On the contrary, it was a matter of public notoriety that the land was not now as well farmed as it used to be, that rents were paid with less regularity than formerly, when they were far higher, and that by degrees all those who had taken an interest in the country, and endeavoured to do their duty, were being squeezed out by the operation of the law and being succeeded by others who were far less able to direct the people into those paths which alone could lead to prosperity. ["Hear, hear!"]

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (The MARQUESS of LANSDOWNE): I venture to add a few words to the Debate because, after the repeated appeals that have been made to this Bench, it might seem discourteous if no other Member of the Government were to express an opinion upon the discussion. We are in this difficulty. It is conceded on all sides that this House would do well not to take a Division upon the resolutions of the noble Lord. Resolutions of that kind are matters which clearly concern not this but the other House of Parliament. We are, then, in this position, that all that we can contribute is a general expression of sympathy with those who have so forcibly laid before the House the sufferings which owners of land in Ireland have sustained in consequence of the legislation of the last few years. The extent of that suffering has been described with the greatest clearness and cogency by the speakers who have addressed this House. I think there are one or two propositions which they have not only established, but amply established. They have, I think, left us in no doubt that the results of the legislation of 1881 have been widely different from what was expected by the supporters or even by the opponents of that legislation. We may sum up those results by saying that they have had the effect of occasioning a much wider and more general transfer than was expected of the incidents of ownership from the landlords to the tenants of Ireland. There is another point which has appeared very clearly during this Debate, and that is that the duties which have been cast upon the Land Commission have proved to be duties of a very different kind from those which we thought we were imposing upon them when the Court of the Land Commission was first established. At that time there was a general belief—and I think a well-founded belief—that the duty of the Land Court would be to reduce the small minority of Irish rents which stood above the general level to the proportions prevailing on the most liberally and generously managed estates in the country. The action of the Court itself clearly pointed to that as being the intention, because in the early days of these proceedings it was only the abnormally high rents that were reduced. But soon after the passing of the Act of 1881 the great wave of agricultural depression which swept over the whole of the kingdom extended to Ireland also. We may contend that Ireland suffered less than other parts of the kingdom, and I believe that to be the case; but I also believe it to be idle to pretend that Ireland did not suffer from the general fall in prices which took place during the eighties. What was the result of that? The Land Commissioners found themselves called upon to adjust the rental of Ireland to an altogether new condition of things. They found themselves entirely cut away from the old standard of market values, and they had, acting to a great extent upon conjecture as to the future movement of prices, to discover a new standard of valuation for the rental of the agricultural land of Ireland. I agree with the noble Duke who addressed us to-night that Parliament is to blame for having committed to the Commissioners so difficult a task without more precise guidance than was given to them by any of the Acts which we have passed. I noticed that the noble Lord who spoke first to-night, Lord Clonbrock, was very careful to explain that he did not rest his case merely on the reductions of rent, because I think it is quite clear that if the Land Courts are merely doing in Ireland that which economical causes are bringing about in England we have no cause to complain. The allegation of the noble Lords who brought this subject before Parliament is that the practice and procedure of these Courts have been irregular and unjust. It is surely not fair to tax Her Majesty's Government, as we have been taxed this evening, with sitting with folded hands and doing nothing to meet these complaints. The noble Lords are perfectly aware that we have agreed to the appointment of a Commission which is to examine and report upon the whole of this question of the practice and procedure and methods of valuation made use of by the Land Courts in Ireland. ["Hear, hear!"] I mention that because I think that is conclusive proof that we have not been indifferent to the earnest statements that have from time to time been laid before us by noble Lords from Ireland. ["Hear, hear!"] The noble Lord, the mover of this Resolution, and other speakers who followed him, have suggested that the question of compensation is a distinct question, and that whether the practice and procedure of the Courts be correct or incorrect, a case has been made out for compensating the landlords for the loss which they have sustained. I do not think enough credit has been given to the noble and learned Lord, Lord Ashbourne, for his argument tending to show the immense difficulty of dealing with this question of compensation. I do not think a single one of the speakers who have addressed the House has ventured to recommend to your Lordships that there should be what might be termed direct compensation of the landlords by means of a grant from the Treasury. We have had, on the contrary, adumbrated a number of proposals for giving what might be called indirect compensation in the way of relief and favourable treatment to the landlords under various heads. What were those suggestions? There was a suggestion that advances might be made to the landlords for the purpose of buying up the tenant-right. I think it is perfectly true, as was stated by Lord Ashbourne, that whereas it has been the clearly indicated policy of Parliament to create in Ireland a class of occupiers who should be also owners of their farms, Parliament has not accepted the policy of encouraging the landlords to buy up the tenant-right and convert the tenants on a large scale into what I suppose would be tenants at will in the English or Scotch sense of the term. That would be an entirely new departure, and it would be a policy which has not yet, so far as I am aware, been put before Parliament or received any measure of support. ["Hear, hear!"] Then there is the proposal that loans should be made to the landlords for the purpose of enabling them to pay off charges upon their estates. There, again, is a proposal which obviously would require very close examination indeed. The remedy, if it be one, would most certainly be a very partial remedy and one very irregular in its operation. It would benefit, to begin with, only those landlords whose estates happen to be encumbered. You might have two landlords each suffering equally, but one might get relief because he happened to have mortgages upon his property and the other one would get no relief at all. ["Hear, hear!"] There is this further point to be borne in mind — that the remedy would probably fail precisely in those cases where we are most anxious that relief should be given—I mean the cases, to which reference has been so often made, of small owners with relatively heavy charges on their property and whose margin of income has virtually disappeared from existence. Men in that position would clearly have no security to offer, and I doubt extremely whether, under any circumstances, it would be found possible to make to persons so situated advances of public money which could really be of any service to them. There is one other proposal which has been made, and that is that something should be done in connection with the tithe rent-charge. That is a proposal which has been more than once discussed in this House. I believe I myself once laid it before your Lordships, and I am certainly disposed to say that there is a good deal of force in the argument that the present terms upon which tithe rent-charge can be extinguished might very fairly be reconsidered. ["Hear, hear!"] That is a matter which we understand is to be brought before your Lordships on an early date, and I have no doubt whatever that the arguments in favour of the step will be most carefully and sympathetically considered. ["Hear, hear!"] I can assure the House that no one feels more than I do that the landlords of Ireland have been very great and very cruel sufferers by the legislation of the last few years, and although I frankly confess that I see no prospect of obtaining for them what I spoke of just now as direct compensation, although I believe it would be an entirely novel thing to remedy the blunders of ill-conceived legislation by grants from the Treasury, I feel no doubt that, so far as the opportunities of the case permit, the representations which the Irish landlords have upon this and other occasions made to Her Majesty's Government will be considered with all the sympathy that the circumstances admit. [*Cheers.*]

Lord INCHIQUIN asked leave to withdraw his Motion.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

MERSEY CHANNELS BILL.

Read 3ª (according to Order), with the Amendments; a further Amendment made. Bill passed and returned to the Commons.

MARKET GARDENERS' COMPENSATION (SCOTLAND) BILL.

House in Committee (according to Order). Bill reported without Amendment; and re-committed to the Standing Committee.

Secretary of State for War.

POOR LAW OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION ACT (1896) AMENDMENT BILL.

Committee of the Whole House (which stands appointed for this day) put off till To-morrow.

House Adjourned at Five Minutes before Eight o'Clock, till To-morrow, a Quarter past Ten o'Clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, 5th July 1897.

NEW WRIT.

For the County of Roscommon (South), *v.* Luke Patrick Hayden, Esquire, deceased.—(*Mr. Patrick O'Brien.*)

PRIVATE BUSINESS.

MERSEY DOCK AND HARBOUR BOARD BILL [H.L.].

Order for Third Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read the Third time."

Mr. T. P. O'CONNOR (Liverpool, Scotland) moved to leave out the words "now Read the Third time," and to add the words "re-committed to the former Committee." He said he was glad to state that, as the promoters had intimated their willingness to withdraw the clauses to which objection was taken, the Debate on this Motion would be greatly curtailed. The Bill had been petitioned against by the Corporation of Liverpool and by several important bodies whose interests would be affected if it passed into law in its present shape. Last year a Bill was, in spite of the protests of Irish Members, passed, called the Liverpool Cattle Market Act, and one of its conditions was that the Stanley Market should not be closed until two years after the completion of the new market at

Bootle, and of the new landing stage in connection with that market. What he complained of was that the Dock Board did not carry out this proviso in the way indicated by Parliament. He did not wish to cast any blame whatever on the Dock Board, who acted, he was sure, according to their best judgment in the public interests of Liverpool, but he did complain that they adopted a somewhat one-sided attitude in the course of the discussion on the Bill. There was no desire on his part to oppose the Bill, except in so far as it proposed the erecting of the new landing stage, which would inflict serious injury on the Irish cattle trade. In the statement which had been circulated on behalf of the promoters, he thought they did not sufficiently recognise the importance of that trade. Their statement was that they were compelled to take the course they had followed, because it was their business to consider not the interests of any particular trade, but the interests of trades as a whole. As a general statement, that was quite incontestable, but it in this case showed an entirely disproportionate sense of the vast importance of the Irish trade, not only to Ireland, but to the commerce and prosperity of Liverpool. As a matter of fact, of the 200,000 cattle, sheep, and pigs sent to England every year from Ireland, no less than 40 per cent. passed through Liverpool, and the Port of Liverpool was just as deeply interested in the preservation of that Irish cattle trade as were the people engaged in it. He complained that by this Bill the Dock Board not only put the cart before the horse, but put the wrong cart before the wrong horse. The cattle traders maintained that the condition in the Liverpool Cattle Market Act of last year, which had been quoted, meant that the new market should be completed, and not the stage, for two years before the Stanley Market was closed; but what was proposed by this Bill was that the money should be expended on the completion of the landing place before the market was taken in hand. He must say he agreed with the objection to a cattle market such as that at Liverpool was being put in private hands. Everybody knew that a syndicate of influential and wealthy citizens in Liverpool had been formed for the purpose of financing the market. He thought the House would be very unwise to depart from the principle that market accommodation should be in the hands of a community. The whole tendency of opinion in Liverpool was, instead of increasing the hold of private enterprise over market accommodation, to withdraw it from private hands, and to put it in the hands of the municipality; and he held that the Dock Board were taking a retrograde step in recognising a market under private control. Furthermore, he held that if a new market and new landing place wer to be erected the very last place to be selected for a landing place was that proposed, as it would involve the Irish steamers landing their cattle at one stage and their passengers and their perishable goods at another, whereas both were now done at the Prince's floating stage much more conveniently and more expeditiously and with less suffering to cattle. He was not concerned to deny that the Third Reading Stage of the Bill was not the most convenient point at which to raise objections, but the Corporation of Liverpool did its best in the House of Lords to get a *locus standi*, and its claim was denied, while the steamship companies could get a *locus* only on the question of tolls. He was glad to know that the Dock Board were willing to withdraw the objectionable parts, and as he had no desire to delay the rest of the Bill he would subsequently move that the Committee have leave to sit and proceed forthwith.

MR. W. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick) seconded the Amendment. His principal reason for opposing the Bill was that he could not understand why the House should allow a private syndicate to introduce a monopolist system—the curse of every country, especially in regard to its food supply—into Liverpool. Had that fact been known to the House the Bill of last year would never have passed its Second Reading. The parties with whom he had acted in this matter had no desire to interfere in any way with the Dock Board's management, but they thought they had a right to interfere when that board interfered with the Irish trade. He thanked the President of the Board of Agriculture for his timely intervention, and he was glad that the Corporation of Liverpool had at the last hour helped them. Had they taken the proper steps in due time, the

Bill would never have reached its present stage.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. WALTER LONG, Liverpool, West Derby) supported the Amendment. He said that in doing so he did not in the smallest degree fail to realise the undesirability, as a general rule, on the part of the House as a whole offering opposition to Measures that had come from the Committees; but he had celt, whether he had approached that question from an Imperial point of view as President of the Board of Agriculture, or from the local point of view as one of the Members for Liverpool, that this was a Bill distinct altogether from the general cases. The previous speakers had omitted to refer to one fact which he thought was of sufficient importance to be brought under the notice of the House—viz., that when the Bill was brought before the Committee of the House of Lords applications were made for a *locus standi* in order that evidence in opposition to the proposal might be heard, but these applications were declined. When the Bill came down to this House the opponents thought it would be waste of time to repeat the application. He confessed he regretted that they did not try their fortunes a second time—["hear, hear!"]—for he could not help thinking that they would have had an opportunity of stating their views in opposition to the proposal. It was quite true that the powers possessed by the Liverpool New Cattle Market Company were conferred upon them by the Act of 1896, and that by this Bill the Board proposed to carry out an obligation which the board believed that Act of 1896 created on their part, on which they were not consulted. Circumstances had materially altered since the Act of 1896. There was no doubt that the proviso about two years, to which reference had been made, was inserted to secure protection of the interests of the cattle trade of Ireland by preventing the old market being closed until not only the new market had been opened, but proper access provided in the form of a convenient landing place. No steps, however, had been taken since then to create the new market, though application was made by this Bill to provide the new landing place, and it was urged by the opponents that this proposal would give the proprietors of the new market an unfair advantage. The Corporation of Liverpool—whether they ought or ought not to have moved earlier in the matter—now offered a strenuous opposition to the Bill. He hoped they would make it their business to provide a suitable market, both from the trading and the humanitarian points of view, in the city of Liverpool. ["Hear, hear!"] Certainly the House had times without number affirmed the cardinal principle that such institutions should be vested in municipal authorities, who were responsible for the prosperity of the community. Therefore if the Corporation were prepared, as he hoped they were, themselves to make proper provision—although he admitted that this might involve some hardship to those connected with the original Act—in the interests of the whole community he hoped the House would accept the amendment, which had been accepted by the promoters.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny) thought there ought to be some assurance given by some representatives of the city of Liverpool—or by Sir Arthur Forwood, who he understood, was connected with the syndicate in question—that the syndicate was willing to accept the arrangement which had been arrived at between the opponents of the Bill and the Dock Board.

SIR A. FORWOOD (Lancashire, Ormskirk), assured the House that he had no interest, directly or indirectly, in the syndicate referred to. He would like to assure the House that the Corporation of Liverpool and the Dock Board had given proper consideration to the subject now before the House. There were very good reasons for the Dock Board endeavouring to carry out the proposal in the Bill. It was true that there was one convenient landing stage for the purpose of ocean traffic, but it was also true that that stage was now largely used for landing steamers from Atlantic and other ocean-going steamers, and he could conceive nothing more objectionable than three or four hundred passengers landing from an Atlantic steamer in conjunction with pigs, sheep, and cattle from Ireland. It was particularly to avoid that that the Dock Board proposed this new landing place. Then the House also should know that the new market would have been only half the distance from the landing stage that the present market was. As to another point which had been raised—that of monopoly—the existing market was a monopoly in private hands, and had never been in the hands of the Corporation.

*MR. WARR (Liverpool, E. Toxteth), on behalf of the promoters, said that they were willing to accept the Amendment. The Dock Board, in seeking by this Bill to obtain powers for the construction of the landing-stage at Bootle, thought that they were merely carrying out a condition which had been imposed by Parliament in passing the Bill of the preceding Session. They thought that Parliament then sanctioned the principle of the establishment of the cattle market at Bootle after having made full inquiries by Committee of both Houses, without, so far as he knew, an expression of disapproval by the Corporation of Liverpool, and after the traders, who now raised objections to this Bill, had been heard; in fact, the Dock Board thought they would have been open to some censure if they had not taken measures to carry out what they believed Parliament had in principle approved. However, now that it appeared that the Corporation of Liverpool, the traders, and particularly the Board of Agriculture were opposed to the Bill, the Dock Board thought that their proper course was to withdraw the clauses objected to. In carrying out what they thought was the intention of Parliament, they were only actuated by one consideration, and that was what was best for the commerce of the country and the port of Liverpool. [" Hear, hear! "] He was quite satisfied that if an opportunity had been given to the Corporation of Liverpool and to the Irish traders to appear before the Committee they would have had no doubt whatever on the subject, and would have been convinced that the Dock Board had no idea of interfering with the Irish Cattle Trade.

MR. J. M. PAULTON (Durham, Bishop Auckland) said that he wished it to be clearly understood that the Corporation of Liverpool had made no application whatever for a *locus standi* in the House of Commons. The only petition before the Court of Referees was from the City of Dublin Steam Packet Company. The Corporation of Liverpool therefore were not refused a hearing on the Bill, because they did not apply for one. They could not claim that they were unjustly treated in being refused a hearing for which they never applied.

Motion agreed to.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR (Liverpool, Scotland) moved:

"That it be an Instruction to the Committee that they do strike out of the Bill all powers in relation to the proposed pier or jetty and other works described in Clause 3, Subsection (c), of the Bill, and to the passage or runway described in Clause 5 of the Bill, and to the taking of lands and the raising of money for those purposes."

Motion agreed to.

Further ordered, That the Committee have leave to sit and proceed forthwith.—(*Mr. T. P. O'Connor.*)

LOCHEARNHEAD, ST. FILLANS, AND COMRIE RAILWAY BILL.

DR. FARQUHARSON (Aberdeenshire, W.) had on the Order Paper a Motion that Standing Orders 84, 214, 215, and 239 be suspended, and that the Bill be now taken into consideration provided amended prints shall have been previously deposited.

MR. F. A. CHANNING (Northamptonshire, E.) moved that the further consideration of the Bill be postponed.

MR. J. W. LOWTHER (CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS) appealed to the hon. Member not to delay the progress of the Bill. The hon. Member, he was sure, wished to act in a fair, straightforward way towards the promoters. It was not the fault of the promoters that the Bill came to the House at its present stage so late in the Session. The promoters had not been in fault. The Committee to whom the Bill was recommitted reported unanimously in favour of it. He thought, therefore, it would be fair to give them an opportunity of getting their Bill through. Under the circumstances he hoped the hon. Member would not persist in his Motion.

MR. CHANNING said he would move that the Bill be postponed until to-morrow only.

PILOTAGE PROVISIONAL ORDER BILL.

MR. J. W. LOWTHER (CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS) moved:—

> "That all petitions against the Pilotage Provisional Order Bill presented three clear days before the meeting of the Committee on the Bill be referred to the Committee; that the petitioners praying to be heard by themselves, their counsel or agents, be heard against the Bill, and counsel heard in support of the Bill."

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.) said the Motion imposed upon the Board of Trade the duty of reconsidering their position in regard to the Bill. This Bill appeared with the name of the President of the Board of Trade, and that of the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary to the Treasury upon it, and they consented to the Bill on the understanding that it was practically unopposed. Now it appeared, and very properly so, as an opposed Bill, by the action of the Chairman of Ways and Means himself. He would therefore put it to the President of the Board of Trade whether they would persist in going on with the Bill, which proposed to enable another body to enter the Port of Rosslare without paying the pilotage fees they had always paid, and thus take away from the Wexford pilots the rights to pilotage duties for vessels entering Rosslare Harbour, which they had established to them by the Act of 1874. No doubt when the Board of Trade made this Provisional Order they thought it was practically unopposed. Now it turned out there was keen opposition, and he thought it was really too bad that the Provisional Order system should be prostituted to take away the rights which had never previously been taken away except by a public or private Bill. The Chairman of Ways and Means had put down a Motion to enable these pilots to be heard by counsel; but he contended that the procedure was an entire change of the system of Provisional Orders to put these poor men to that enormous expense, and set them to oppose the wealthy people who owned the Rosslare Harbour, who, he believed, were the London and North-Western Railway Company. It was against the very principle of a Provisional Order, which was that it should be practically unopposed. If it had been brought in as a Private Bill, notices would have had to be issued, and the Committee would, as a matter of course, have had to bear the opposition of the pilots, who were having the bread taken out of their mouths by a powerful syndicate. He thought the time had come when the House should consider as a whole the means by which wealthy syndicates were able to prevail to bear down important interests that were only precariously protected by the action of individual private representatives in that House, and that the Board of Trade should never have allowed this Bill. It was a scandal, and an illustration once more of the way in which Irish private business was dealt with on this side. Yet they wondered why Irishmen wanted Home Rule! He wished the President of the Board of Trade to withdraw this Bill, and not to give his sanction to the action of his Department in regard to it.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. C. T. RITCHIE, Croydon) said the hon. Member, in language by no means moderate, characterised the action of the Board of Trade in regard to this matter as being altogether unprecedented, and he had given them an entirely novel version of the system of Provisional Orders. He seemed to think that system was intended solely for Bills which were practically agreed; but in that he was entirely wrong. If it was not common that these Bills should have to go before a Committee, it was not an infrequent thing, and it was not to be held that because separate interests could not be reconciled—

MR. T. M. HEALY: Will the right hon. Gentleman quote an example?

MR. RITCHIE said the examples were not comparatively numerous.

MR. T. M. HEALY: Will the right hon. Gentleman name a single one?

MR. RITCHIE repeated that the hon. Member showed great ignorance of the Provisional Order system. It was not intended solely for agreed Bills, but to make it easier to get passed through the House Measures of general utility where there was no great matter of public interest concerned. In this case there was no compensation proposed for the pilots, and he (Mr. Ritchie) agreed to an Instruction proposed by the hon. Member for Mayo (Mr. Dillon) that the question of compensation should be considered. The Chairman of Committees endeavoured to reconcile the two parties, but he could not do so, and the Bill had therefore to go before his Select Committee, where the objections could be considered. He saw no reason why in regard to this Bill any but the usual course should be taken, and why the Motion should not pass.

Motion agreed to.

FISHERIES ACTS AMENDMENT BILL [H.L.].

Read the First time; to be read the Second time upon Thursday, and to be be printed.—[Bill 297.]

QUESTIONS.

MAGISTRACY (COUNTY MONAGHAN).

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the reason for which Lord Rossmore was dismissed from the Commission of the Peace for the county Monaghan in 1883 was publicly stated to be that Lord Rossmore had headed a band of armed Orange rioters in that county in an organised attempt to break up a Nationalist meeting, and broke through the ranks of the Queen's troops; also, that in November 1893, after the reinstatement of Lord Rossmore in the Commission of the Peace, his conduct was brought under the consideration of the Lord Chancellor of Ireland in connection with his action in a case before the Land Commission, in which a tenant of Lord Rossmore's had been induced by the agent of that nobleman to sign an agreement excluding himself from all proprietary rights in his own improvements, a transaction for which Mr. Justice Bewley stated from the Judicial Bench no censure could be too strong; and (2) whether, having regard to these circumstances, the Government will reconsider their decision in appointing Lord Rossmore to the Lieutenancy of Monaghan?

*THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): The circumstances under which Lord Rossmore was superseded in the Commission of the Peace in November 1883, are fully detailed in the correspondence which was presented to Parliament in the following year. It has already been pointed out that this supersession did not extend to the office of Deputy Lieutenant which Lord Rossmore has held for 23 years. The second part of the first paragraph formed the subject-matter of a question addressed to my predecessor in office on the 10th November 1893, and the conclusion arrived at by the late Lord Chancellor was that Lord Rossmore had no personal knowledge of or connection with the act of his agent, and that there was no ground whatever for taking any action against him as a Magistrate. He has been appointed to the Lieutenancy of the County, and there is no intention to reconsider the appointment.

FACTORY ACTS (FISHING INDUSTRY).

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucester, Forest of Dean): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether, there being now no chance of discussion during the present Session of the suggested further relaxation of the law relating to the application of the Factory Acts to the fish industry, nor of the strengthening of the law on that subject, it may be understood that the law as it stands will now be applied, and prosecutions in the case of the working of hours beyond those named in the Factory Acts be allowed to proceed?

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY, Lancashire, Blackpool): There would be great difficulties in the way of adopting the course which the right hon. Baronet suggests. The law is not absolutely free from doubt, and the practice of the last 20 years has been to allow the exemption, the right to which the Bill now before the House is intended to make clear. Further, the enforcement of the stricter view of the Act which the right hon. Baronet takes would have the effect of injuring the smaller men employed in the trade to the benefit of the large employers who can afford to put their fish in ice. I do not see my way therefore at present to putting a more stringent construction on the Act than my predecessors have done.

SIR C. DILKE: Would the right hon. Gentleman take the opinion of the law officers?

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY: I am not at all sure that the opinion of the law officers has not been already taken, but of course the highest opinion will be taken.

LOCHMADDY WATER SCHEME.

SIR CHARLES CAMERON (Glasgow, Bridgeton): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate (1) whether he has received from the North Uist District Committee of the Inverness County Council a resolution deploring a public insult offered by Sir John Orde to the sheriff substitute of the district; (2) whether he is aware that the insulting language used arose out of some question as to the sheriff's residence as a tenant under Sir John Orde, and that the sheriff has since felt constrained to quit the island :(3) and whether, seeing that Sir John Orde is a J.P. and D.L. of the county, the Scotch Office will bring the matter to the attention of the Lord Chancellor and the Lord Lieutenant of the county.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire): I have received a copy of the resolution referred to. As information was laid before the Procurator Fiscal, the incident referred to was investigated and reported upon by Crown Counsel who have come to the conclusion—with which I agree—that, though the language used was insulting and offensive the facts do not amount to a breach of the peace. It is not the fact that the sheriff's absence from the island is due to the incident in question. In view of the determination of Crown Counsel that no proceedings should be taken, the Scottish Office do not propose to take any steps in the direction indicated in the last paragraph of the Question.

SIR CHARLES CAMERON: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate, whether his attention has been called to the proceedings of the North Uist District Committee of the Inverness County Council on 26th June, the statements therein put forward that owing to the refusal of Sir John Orde to sanction a scheme for the proper supply of water to Lochmaddy, the water supply of that place was filthy and unfit for human use, and the resolution agreed to by the District Committee to prosecute Sir John Orde under the Public Health Acts; and whether, considering the danger to public health entailed by a continuance of the state of matters described, the Local Government Board can intervene and compel its remedy?

*THE LORD ADVOCATE: The Local Government Board are aware that the water supply of Lochmaddy has long been in an unsatisfactory condition and repeated efforts have been made by the Board to bring about improvement. A Special Water Supply District has been formed but as the proprietor saw reason to disapprove the proposed direction of the pipe-track, the Board, looking to the urgency of the situation, took the somewhat unusual course of remitting to a Special Engineering Commissioner to report on the whole matter in order to be in a position to advise the Local Authority; that gentleman accompanied by the medical member of the Board visited Lochmaddy recently and his report is understood to be nearly ready. The Local Government believe it is the case that the Local Authority have resolved to prosecute the proprietor. I am not aware that the Local Government Board can do anything further till their Commissioner's report is before them.

MUZZLING ORDER (SHEEP DOGS).

MR. POWLETT MILBANK (Radnor): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture whether, taking into consideration that sheep dogs will not work over mountainous land in muzzles, he will exempt such dogs when in work, and treat them in the same manner as sporting dogs?

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. WALTER LONG, Liverpool, West Derby): I have caused further inquiries to be made into this matter, and the results go to show that if owners of sheep dogs will be good enough to take steps to provide their dogs with well-fitting muzzles of a good pattern, and to accustom them to their use, the work of the dogs will not be materially interfered with. I am most anxious to avoid taking any step which would seriously impair the efficiency of the Orders which have been issued and render it necessary to continue them in force for a longer period than would otherwise be the case, and I regret, therefore, that I do not see my way to adopt the suggestion made by my hon. Friend.

AGRICULTURAL RATING ACT, 1896.

*MR. EDWARD MONCKTON (Northampton, N.): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board if he could state to the House whether, in the event of a spending authority ceasing to be the spending authority over part of its area, it could under any circumstances continue to receive the grant under the Agricultural Rating Act, 1896, for the area over which it has ceased to be the spending authority; and whether, considering that Section 3, Sub-section (1) of the Agricultural Rating Act, 1896, provided against the grant due to one area of a spending authority being used to the advantage of the remainder, can a spending authority use the proportion of a grant paid for an area which has ceased to belong to it in the reduction of the rates of the area over which it retains authority?

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. HENRY CHAPLIN, Lincolnshire, Sleaford): When there has been a change in the spending authority of a district or in the area under the jurisdiction of a spending authority the grant originally assigned to the district would be continued to that district unless the certificate as to the grant was altered. But the Act contemplates that under those circumstances the certificate shall be varied, and it would be the practice of the Lacal Government Board, in such a case, to alter it. The sum assigned under the original certificate would be reduced by the amended certificate, and, therefore, would not be payable to the spending authority.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE (Kerry, W.): I beg to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether £74,969 is the whole amount due to Ireland for one year or the amount due to Ireland for half a year, under the Agricultural Rating Act?

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bristol, W.): The sum named is the whole amount due in 1896–7, representing one-half of the annual "equivalent grant," in accordance with the English Agricultural Rates Act. The amount payable in 1897–8 will be for 12 months, and therefore double the amount payable in 1896–97.

BANGOR TOWN COMMISSIONERS (CO. DOWN).

MR. D. MACALEESE (Monaghan, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether any, and, if so, what date has been appointed by the Local Government Board or their auditor for the purpose of auditing the accounts of the Town Commissioners of Bangor, county Down, for the year ending 31st December 1896; what is the cause of delay in this audit; and will arrangements be made to have it proceeded with and completed forthwith?

*MR. GERALD BALFOUR: No date has yet been fixed for the audit of the accounts of the town referred to. The reason attributed for the delay is illness of the town clerk. Arrangements will be made for proceeding with the audit as soon as the accounts are completed and the balance-sheets ready for the auditor.

NILE EXPEDITION.

SIR BEVAN EDWARDS (Hythe): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether the Government have decided to continue the advance up the valley of the Nile; and, if so, what troops are to be employed; and, if the command is to be given to a distinguished general as stated in the newspapers; in that case, is it intended that he should supersede Sir Herbert Kitchener, now commanding the troops on the Nile?

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): Any operations on the Nile would be conducted by the

Government of Egypt. There is no intention of superseding Sir Herbert Kitchener in his command.

PETTY OFFICERS (NAVAL) DROWNED.

MR. J. GILHOOLY (Cork Co., W.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty what provision will be made by the Government for the maintenance of the families of the six petty officers of H.M.S. *Collingwood*, who were recently drowned in Bantry Bay?

THE CIVIL LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.): Under the regulations, pensions and allowances to the widows and children of petty officers and men can only be granted in cases where the men have been killed or drowned on duty. The petty officers referred to were on leave at the time of the accident which caused their death, and their families are not therefore eligible for pecuniary assistance. Children can, however, be maintained at the expense of Greenwich Hospital in schools or homes, and any application to the Admiralty with this object in view will be considered.

MR. GILHOOLY asked whether there was any Jubilee fund available for this purpose?

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: No, sir; I am very sorry to say there is not.

FAIRS AND MARKET TOLLS (BANTRY, CO. CORK).

MR. GILHOOLY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the collection of tolls and customs at fairs and markets in the town of Bantry, Co. Cork; whether he is aware that the agents of the Bantry Estate charge tolls on the sale of cattle, sheep, horses, &c., at fairs held in the streets of the town, and can he state whether it is by charter or letters patent that the said tolls are levied; and whether schedules of the tolls demanded are published?

*MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I am informed that tolls are levied at the fairs and markets held at Bantry, and that it is believed these charges are made under the authority of letters patent. I am not aware whether schedules of the tolls are published.

Under Secretary of State for War.

POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS (SOMERSET).

SIR A. ACLAND-HOOD (Somerset, Wellington): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, what alterations, if any, are contemplated in the postal arrangements of the parishes of Exford, Winsford, and Exton, in the county of Somerset?

THE SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. R. W. HANBURY, Preston): The hon. Member's Question, no doubt, has reference to an application which he recently forwarded to the Postmaster General, and which is still under consideration. As soon as a decision is arrived at, the hon. Member shall receive a reply.

PARCEL POST FACILITIES.

MR. WALTER HAZELL (Leicester): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether his attention has been called to the system in operation in Germany, Austria, Hungary, Belgium, France, Italy, Switzerland, and India, whereby the Post Office collects the purchase money for goods sent by parcel post and remits it to the sender less a small commission; and, whether, in view of the expected development of the parcel post, consequent upon reduced charges, he will consider the advisability of introducing the system into this country?

MR. HANBURY: The Postmaster General is aware of the system in operation in many countries abroad, whereby the Post Office collects the purchase money for goods sent by parcel post and remits it to the sender less a small commission. The question of introducing the system into the postal service of this country has been for many years before the Department, but hitherto there has not appeared to be throughout the community any strong or widespread desire for its adoption, while retail traders are much opposed to it. It is significant that a resolution in favour of its introduction brought forward at the last autumn meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce was lost by a large majority. While public opinion remains so greatly divided, the Postmaster General would not feel justified in taking any action in the matter.

COLONIAL TROOPS IN ENGLAND.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether it is intended to afford the Colonial troops now in the Mother Country, themselves mostly volunteers, as well as the Indian chiefs and officers, any opportunity of seeing the unpaid Military reserve possessed by Great Britain in her 230,000 Volunteers, now that they have seen both the Royal Navy and regular Army, as well as some brigades of Militia?

MR. BRODRICK: The great number of functions, including three military displays, which have taken place in connection with the Jubilee, have rendered it impossible to arrange a special Volunteer review. Our colonial visitors had, however, some opportunity of seeing the picked bodies of volunteers who paraded on the Jubilee day.

COMMISSION TO PROFESSIONS.

MR. HAZELL: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether it will be practicable to invite the Colonial Premiers while visiting London to consider the desirability of bringing before the respective governments the need for making the conditions of admission into the various professions uniform throughout the Empire, so that a person entering a profession in any part of it may practise it in any other part without more difficulty than if he remained in the country in which he originally qualified?

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.): I shall be glad to see progress made in this direction, and hoped to see the Colonial Solicitors Bill passed this Session, but there are so many subjects of pressing importance to be discussed that I fear it will be impossible to consider the details of this question with the Premiers.

DELAGOA BAY.

SIR ELLIS ASHMEAD-BARTLETT (Sheffield, Ecclesall): I beg to ask the Under Secretaty for State for Foreign Affairs whether he has any knowledge of certain additional privileges with respect to Delegoa Bay recently accorded by the Portugese Government to the Mozambique Company: and, whether he has any confirmation of the statement telegraphed from Berlin to the *Daily Mail* that negotiations are pending for acquisition of the control of the Mozambique Company by a Foreign syndicate?

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, (Mr. G. CURZON, Lancashire, Southport). The concession held by the Mozambique Company has recently been extended from 25 to 50 years: but we have no knowledge of any privileges with respect to Delagoa Bay; and have received a formal assurance that there is no truth in the report. Neither have we any confirmation of the statement that negotiations are pending for the acquisition of the control of the Mozambique Company by a Foreign syndicate.

RED SEA LIGHTS.

SIR JAMES FERGUSSON (Manchester, N.E.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether Her Majesty's Government, in assenting to a certain increase in the customs tariff of Egypt, obtained an undertaking that £40,000 a year of the lighthouse dues would be surrendered, out of which the cost of additional lights in the Red Sea and of a light in the Gulf of Aden would be defrayed; whether that sum has now been reduced to £30,000, and whether that reduction was understood to omit the provision for the latter light; whether the Board of Trade were informed of such omission; and, whether he will lay upon the Table the correspondence between the two Departments on the subject?

MR. CURZON: In 1889 the Egyptian Government undertook to surrender £40,000 per annum of the light dues when the new tariff should come into force. No arrangement was made as to the disposal of that sum, but Her Majesty's Government had in view the construction of new lights in the Red Sea. No mention appears to have been made in any of the dispatches of a light in the Gulf of Aden. The new tariff has not come into force, nor has it been possible to see when it will do so. Nevertheless the Egyptian Government agreed to relinquish £40,000 of the light dues from January 1st 1894; and out of this sum about £65,000 has already been encashed for the construction of new lights in the Red Sea. From and after September 1st next the dues will be reduced by amounts per ton equal to about £32,000 per annum; but this figure has nothing to do with the omission of a light in the Gulf of Aden, which as I have said has never been provided for; the balance being devoted to expenses of the Quarantine Board, so as to avoid an extra tax on shipping. The Egyptian Decree respecting the reduction of the Dues will be published, but there is no correspondence of a character to be laid.

SIR J. FERGUSSON asked whether the provision of a light in the Gulf of Aden was not contemplated at the same time as were the additional lights in the Red Sea?

MR. CURZON: I have had all the dispatches looked into, and there is no mention of it at all.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT REPORT (SCHOOL MAINTENANCE).

VISCOUNT CRANBORNE (Rochester): I beg to ask the Vice President of the Committee of Council on Education what is the definition of "maintenance," for the purposes of Table G on page 52 of the Report of the Committee of Council on Education for 1895–6?

THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL (Sir JOHN GORST, Cambridge University): The payments included under the head of maintenance are those tabulated in the specimen account page given on page 49 of the Revised Instructions for this year, and those mentioned in the small print to Article 90 of the Code.

CATTLE CARRYING REGULATIONS.

SIR ARTHUR FORWOOD (Lancashire, Ormskirk): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture whether British steamers which call at Havre to receive cargo on their outward voyage for America are precluded from conveying from America to England live cattle for slaughter on landing, unless a period of 21 days has elapsed between the time of call at the French port and their arrival at the English port, on the ground that infection from the cargo received in France but landed in America may be conveyed to the beasts subsequently received on the vessel in America and landed in England; and, whether, as there is no restriction on the direct importation and distribution of merchandise from France into England, he will re-consider the regulations of the Board as regards vessels?

MR. LONG: The landing of foreign animals has for very many years past been subject to the requirement that the vessel in which they are brought should not before taking them on board have touched within a specified period at a port in a country from which the importation of animals is entirely prohibited. This requirement is rendered necessary by the fact that some of the diseases against which we legislate can be transmitted not only directly from animal to animal, but also through the medium of persons, substances, and things, and actual experience has shown that the danger is a very real one. I regret, therefore, that I am unable to withdraw the requirement, and with regard to the particular period to be prescribed, I would say that some years ago it was reduced from 28 to 21 days, and that I do not think it could be further reduced consistently with safety.

SIR A. FORWOOD asked whether it was not the fact that goods and persons coming directly from France, only a few hours distant, came into England without any restriction?

MR. LONG said it certainly was the fact, but if his right hon. Friend desired to assume that they regarded it as entirely free from danger, he should be obliged to say that they reserved their opinion.

CHARITY LANDS TRUSTEES.

MR. A. BALDWIN (Worcester, Bewdley): I beg to ask the hon. Member for Thirsk, as representing the Charity Commissioners (1) whether after a local inquiry held at Upton Snodsbury, in the county of Worcester, it has been decided that the only trustees of the charity lands are the vicar and churchwardens of the parish; (2) whether this decision has been made on the sole authority of an inclosure award, notwithstanding that the parish books appear to show that the administration of the charity was always under the control of the parishioners; and (3) if any authority exists for treating an inclosure award as a declaration of trusts?

MR. GRANT LAWSON (York, N.R., Thirsk): The answer to the first paragraph of the Question is in the affirmative. The decision was arrived at after an examination of all the available evidence in the case, including the parish books, which show a usage only whereby the trustees allowed the parishioners a voice in the administration of the charity. Charitable trusts are frequently declared by an enclosure award which, being established by the authority of Parliament, constitutes in these cases a declaration of trust of an exceptionally permanent character.

IRISH MAIL SERVICE.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, if he is aware that the English mails have been twice late in the last week of their delivery at Tralee, not arriving on the 29th instant until 4.15 p.m.; and whether in view of the continual inconvenience caused by the late delivery of these mails and the repeated representations which have been made to the postal authorities by the inhabitants of the Tralee district, he will cause immediate steps to be taken to remedy the grievance?

MR. HANBURY: The Postmaster General is aware that on the dates referred to the English mails failed to effect a connection with the day mail train from Limerick junction to Tralee owing to delays from fog on the passage from Holyhead to Kingstown. When failures of this kind occur the Department takes the only steps which are open to it to remedy the inconvenience, that is to say, the route viâ Mallow is resorted to, by which means the bags for Tralee arrive at their destination about 4.15 p.m. or several hours earlier than if they were kept for the next Train from Limerick junction to Tralee viâ Limerick.

JUBILEE MEDALS.

MR. G. C. T. BARTLEY (Islington, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury when the Jubilee medals will be ready for issue; and whether he is aware that many ordered a month before the 22nd June have not yet been issued?

MR. HANBURY: The issue of the Jubilee Commemoration medals commenced on June 16. They are being supplied through the Banks of England, Ireland, and Scotland and their various branches. The demand for gold and silver medals is being dealt with in the first instance. As soon as the supply of the large gold medal approaches completion, the large silver medals will be proceeded with more rapidly, and the bronze medals will be commenced. It is not, however, anticipated that the issue of the latter will begin before next month. Up to Saturday afternoon 36,600 medals had been issued. At the last Jubilee no issue of medals took place before July 18, and the distribution lasted over a period of eighteen months.

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.): May I ask whether a medal has been sent to the right hon. Gentleman himself? [*Laughter.*]

POST OFFICE ESTABLISHMENTS.

MR. S. WOODS (Essex, Walthamstow): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, in view of the fact that in London up to the time of the recent Commission the number of hours per week was fixed for sorters at 48, and that they were entirely exempt from Sunday work, in marked contrast with the provincial sorting staff, and also with both the London and provincial telegraph staff, Sunday work being a portion of their duty; whether the Postmaster General in any changes he intends to follow in the interests of the service will direct that the vested interests of the London permanent Sunday force are not interfered with; will he explain why the Sunday rates fixed by the Treasury Minute years ago for the London sorting staff have, contrary to all precedent, been considerably reduced even for officers over 20 years on the duty; whether the Postmaster General has received two petitions from the London permanent sorting staff protesting against this, and will the Postmaster General receive a deputation of two or more of the officers concerned before coming to a decision; and, whether he will supply those men who are already chosen in anticipation with the reasons why the authorities have interfered.

Mr. HANBURY: It is the fact that the hours of work for sorters were, and are fixed at 48 irrespective of Sunday work. This applies both to London and the Provinces. No change has been made in this respect by the Report of the Tweedmouth Committee. Sunday work, both in London and the Provinces, is separately paid for, and up to the time of the report of the Tweedmouth Committee was paid for at higher rates in London than the Provinces. In view of the very great advantages conferred on the London sorting staff in the shape of higher rate of pay, and higher rates for some classes of overtime, it is understood that the Tweedmouth Committee considered that it was reasonable and desirable that the exceptionally high allowance paid for Sunday work in London should cease and the Committee made a distinct recommendation that it should be assimilated to the rate paid in the Provinces. If the staff, or any portion of the Staff prefer to recur to their old scale of pay and retain their old allowance, their application shall receive careful consideration from the Postmaster General. But they must distinctly understand that they cannot have the advantages which the Tweedmouth Committee secured for them without surrendering the other privileges which they had before and which the concession of these advantages was intended to cover. The memorials referred to have been received, and if—after this answer—the Staff should still desire to see the Postmaster General he will have pleasure in following his usual practice of receiving deputations of officers of the Department who may wish to see him.

DISTRIBUTING OFFENSIVE LEAFLETS.

Mr. WOODS: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he is aware that on Sunday, the 20th June, a police officer apprehended two men (named respectively Nicoll and Low), who were addressing a public audience at the corner of Beckton Road, Canning Town, without any warrant or other legal authority, and that these men were kept in custody for several hours; that, on two Town Councillors presenting themselves at the police station to offer bail, they were told that there was no charge against the men, the police officer admitting that he had no charge against the men; whether it is legal for a police officer to apprehend persons addressing public meetings without any warrant or other legal authority; and whether he will cause a strict investigation to be made into the conduct of the police officer in question, with a view of seeing that justice and fair play is meted out in cases of this kind?

Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY: I understand that Nicoll, who was accompanied by Low, was found to be distributing leaflets of a scandalous character, containing a most offensive description of the Queen; and that the two men were, in accordance with instructions, taken to the nearest station. Nicoll, however, expressed regret for his conduct, and promised not to repeat it, and, as he kept his promise, no proceedings have hitherto been taken. The action taken by the police in the case of these men had no connection whatever with their addressing a public meeting.

IRISH JUDICIARY.

Mr. Serjeant HEMPHILL (Tyrone, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the 6th Section of the Irish Judicature Act (40 and 41 Vict., c. 57), which provided that the the number of the then existing Common Law Judges in Ireland should be reduced from 12 to 10 in certain events, which have since happened, thus by implication fixing the number for the future at 10; and whether, seeing that since the death of the late Mr. Justice Harrison nearly two years ago, there has been only nine such Judges, and since the recent promotion of Mr. Justice Holmes only eight, he will explain what legal authorisation there is for the delay in filling up the vacancy so created nearly two years ago?

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: The statute referred to did not make it imperative on the Government to appoint a Judge immediately on the occurrence of the vacancy in the Judicial Bench. The vacancy caused by the death of Mr. Justice Harrison was not filled up in view of the intention of the Government to legislate on the subject of the Judicial Bench in Ireland.

MR. MICHAEL DAVITT (Mayo, S.): I wish to ask the right hon. Gentleman whether he is aware that no one in Ireland is opposed to the reduction in the number of Judges except the lawyers?

MR. SERJEANT HEMPHILL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary for Ireland whether he his aware that during the present law sittings in Dublin the Court of Queen's Bench and the Nisi Prius Court have had on more than one occasion to adjourn their Courts for want of Judges, to the great inconvenience and delay of the suitors, also that, in consequence of both the Lords Justices of Appeal in Ordinary having to go circuit, the sittings of the Court of Appeal in Ireland will be practically suspended during the month of July, thereby necessitating the postponement of important appeal cases to the next November sittings; and, whether he can now be good enough to state on what day the Bill for reducing the Irish Justiciary will be introduced into this House?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: My attention has been directed to the statements of the learned Judges in reference to the matters mentioned in the Question. I am not aware that any similar complaints have been previously made. It is proposed to introduce the Bill under the Standing Order at the commencement of public business on Monday next.

QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE.

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether it has been brought to his notice that the constables of the Metropolitan Police Force did nearly four days' duty in overtime during the period of the Diamond Jubilee; whether it is proposed to give only ordinary pay for the extra time worked, whereas it is customary with workmen to receive at least a time and a-half rate for extra service of this kind, which was most arduous and exhausting, some men having had only a few hours' sleep out of 24; whether he will consider the advisability of at least granting extra leave, pay going on, to be added to the annual leave, as have been done upon three previous occasions, and on a far more generous scale than in the present case, considering the severity of the service rendered; and whether members of the Force, in possession of the 1887 Jubilee medal, will receive the 1897 medal, and not a clasp, to which they do not attach the same value?

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY: I have already informed the House of the manner in which the services of the police on Jubilee Day are to be recognised, and I have nothing to add to my previous statement except that I ascertained that the men preferred extra pay to extra leave, and that I made my decision in accordance with their wishes.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that Inspector Brewster, of the Dublin Metropolitan Police, who was in charge of the police in Rutland Square, Dublin, on the 22nd of June, Her Majesty's Jubilee Day, swore at the inquest of Mrs. Fitzsimmons, whose death resulted from injuries received in a baton charge, that he did not order the charge, and would not have done so under the circumstances; whether he is aware that the charge was ordered by a subordinate officer, Inspector Lynam, without consulting or obtaining the sanction of his superior officer, Inspector Brewster, who was within three yards of him at the time; and whether the Government propose to hold a sworn Inquiry into the conduct of the police in connection with the occurrence in Rutland Square?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: The substance of Inspector Brewster's evidence before the Coroner in this case is not correctly given in the Question. Before the police used their truncheons there was a consultation between Inspector Brewster and Inspector Lynam, and shortly after the consultation, when the Inspectors were separated by a surging crowd, a shower of stones fell and Inspector Lynam's men were driven back. It was at this juncture that the police were ordered by Inspector Lynam to disperse the mob, and Inspector Brewster stated in evidence that if he had been in Inspector Lynam's position he would have done what the latter did, as he believed every policeman's life was at the moment in danger. The Inspectors were separated, as I have stated, by a surging crowd and each had to act independently and on his own responsibility; they are of the same rank and Inspector Brewster, though senior, was not Inspector Lynam's superior officer. The action of the police was fully gone into at the inquest, and the Government see no reason to hold a sworn Inquiry as suggested.

SIR ELLIOT LEES (Birkenhead): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether the Secretary of State will convey to those responsible for the transport of Members to and from the Review Ground at Aldershot, on Thursday, and for their comfort on the ground, the satisfaction which was generally felt at the excellence of the arrangements?

MR. BRODRICK: It has been a great gratification to the Secretary of State to know that the arrangements for the review, which entailed very heavy labour on the War Department, have proved satisfactory to the guests, and Lord Lansdowne will have much pleasure in conveying to the Quartermaster General at headquarters and to the Staff Officers at Aldershot charged with the arrangements referred to the very gratifying remarks contained in the hon. Member's Question. ["Hear, hear!"]

MR. WOOTTON ISAACSON (Tower Hamlets, Stepney): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether any and what public recognition is to be made of a body of men who have done valuable services during the Jubilee, namely, the Metropolitan Fire Brigade?

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY: I am afraid I am unable to answer the Question of my hon. Friend. The control of the Fire Brigade rests with the London County Council, not with me.

FRANCHISE (IRELAND.)

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Government intend to deal with the question of the equalisation of the municipal and the parliamentary franchise in Ireland in connection with the Local Government (Ireland) Bill, proposed to be introduced next Session?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: As has already been said by the First Lord in answer to previous questions, the Government do not think it advisable to enter into any details with regard to the Bill of next Session. The hon. Gentleman will probably himself be in a position to judge how far it is possible to deal with the subject of local government without at the same time touching the question of the municipal franchise.

MR. T. M. HEALY subsequently asked whether, in view of the statement of the Chief Secretary in regard to municipal franchise that franchise will apply to incorporate as well as corporate towns?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I think it would be very inexpedient to go into any details as to what it is proposed to introduce into our Bill of next year, and I think it is hardly a fair Question to put. We shall hope to make the scheme of the Government as complete as possible.

ARREST BY VENEZUELAN AUTHORITIES.

SIR CHARLES CAMERON: I beg to ask the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether his attention has been called to the arrest and imprisonment by the Venezuelan authorities at Ciudad Bolivar, in November last, of Mr. James Gibson, a British subject, engineer on board the steamship *Caura* on the alleged ground that the owners of that vessel had refused to pay a fine imposed in respect of a violation of the rules of the port; whether it is true, as alleged by Mr. Gibson, that he was forcibly taken from his steamer and lodged in prison without any of the formalities enjoyed by Venezuelan law; whether he has sent in a claim for compensation for the suffering and injury to health caused by this illegal treatment; and whether her Majesty's Government have taken any steps to support his claim?

*MR. CURZON: We have heard nothing of the case and have received no claim. If the hon. Baronet cares to place any information before me, I shall be happy to give it attention.

CRETE.

MR. J. C. FLYNN (Cork. N.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in connection with the recent raid made by Mahomedan Bashi Bazouks and the report of Colonel Chernside on the plundering of the houses of Christians in Candia, whether the Candian delegates have petitioned the admirals and complained of the inaction of the authorities?

*MR. CURZON: No official information has reached us of any such action on the part of the Candian Delegates.

TOKAT MASSACRE.

MR. FLYNN: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, whether he can now state what has been the result of the trials of those concerned in the massacre of Armenians at Tokat: and, what punishment, if any, has deen dealt out to those found guilty of being implicated in the massacre?

*MR. CURZON: The Tokat Commission tried 115 prisoners, of whom 61 were condemned; 15 to death, five to 15 years imprisonment for murder; seven to ten years imprisonment for pillage or as accomplices of murder, and the remainder to various shorter terms of imprisonment for complicity in the massacres. As regards the death sentences they have been confirmed by the Council of Ministers at Constantinople, but the Sultan's Irade for their execution has not yet been obtained.

MR. FLYNN: Can the right hon. Gentleman state whether any actual punishment has been yet inflicted beyond the sentences decreed?

*MR. CURZON: I believe all those who have been sentenced to various terms of imprisonment are in prison.

BOARD SCHOOLS (SCOTLAND.)

MR. JOHN WILSON (Falkirk): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate if he will agree to the Return as to grants to board schools in Scotland in respect of evening school attendances, which stands on the Paper this day?

*THE LORD ADVOCATE: I cannot undertake to give a return with reference to the first head in the form asked for. With reference to the second the return is already in the printer's hands and will be issued at once.

CHITPUR DISTURBANCES.

SIR ELLIS ASHMEAD-BARTLETT: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he can give the House any information as to the recent disturbances at Chitpur, and especially as to the losses among the police?

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (LORD GEORGE HAMILTON, Middlesex, Ealing): I have received the following telegrams from the Government of India:—

"From Viceroy, July 4, 1897."

"Riot in Calcutta due to possession being taken by estate of Hindu, under orders of Court, of land alleged, it is said falsely, to contain mosque. Monday, police assisted in giving possession. Tuesday, 2,000 low class Mahomedans assembled to rebuild building alleged to be mosque dispersed by police, and 70 arrests made on Wednesday morning. Midday Wednesday rioters re-assembled and attacked municipal pumping station in the neighbourhood; dispersed by police and military. Encounters between police and mobs in different places on Thursday, in which eight rioters reported killed and many wounded. Europeans attacked in places by rioters and some reported injured. No shots fired by military. Rioters quiet Friday and Saturday, and leading Mahomedans reported to be desirous of effecting compromise about land."

From Viceroy, July 5, 1897.—"Calcutta quiet Sunday."

Mr. Stevens, the Acting Lieutenant Governor, who was in Behar at the time of the outbreak, returned to Calcutta yesterday evening. The Government of India are of opinion that Mr. James, the new Commissioner of Police, acted "with promptitude and judgment." The Government consider the outbreak purely local, and the accounts of it are exaggerated. [*Cheers.*]

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH, SKELLIG MICHAEL (CO. KERRY.)

MR. LECKY (Dublin University): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he is aware that the ancient ruin of St. Michael's Church on Skellig Michael, in the county of Kerry, is and has been for some time past in a very dangerous condition owing to the fall of the cashel, or enclosing wall; whether the attention of the Commissioners of Public Works, Ireland, in whom this monument is vested under section 25 of The Irish Church Act, 1869, has been called to this fact, without any attempts having been made to repair the damage; and whether some steps will be taken during the present summer to save this primitive church from complete destruction?

*MR. HANBURY: It is the fact that, owing to the fall of part of the enclosing wall, St. Michael's church has been for some time in danger of injury. When information of the fall of the enclosing wall reached the Board of Works in 1895, orders were immediately issued for inspection by the superintendent of national monuments with a view to repairs. Owing, however, principally to the difficulty of access to the island on account of storms, the inspection was not carried out at the time. A report has lately been made by Mr. Cochrane, one of the Board's Surveyors, on the subject, from which it appears that the fall of the enclosing wall has not as yet caused any actual damage to the walls of the Church as they stood immediately before the fall of the enclosing wall in 1895. Directions were given immediately on receipt of the report for the execution of works for the repair of the enclosing wall and for restoring support to the Church wall. These works will be carried out in the present summer without delay under proper supervision.

PLUMBERS' REGISTRATION BILL.

MR. W. WOODALL (Hanley): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether, seeing that the Report of the City of London Livery Companies Commission of 1884 does not afford full information as to the bye-laws or ordinances of the Plumbers' Company, a copy of the charter and of the bye-laws, and a statement as to the present resources of the Company could be laid upon the Table of the House prior to the further consideration of the Plumbers' Registration Bill?

MR. CHAPLIN: I stated in reply to a Question on the 21st June that I had no doubt that if it were desired, the Company would cause to be furnished a brief statement of the constitution and resources of the Company which might, if it were moved for, be laid on the Table of the House. But no motion for any such return has been made. I do not know if it would be possible to obtain it now, before Wednesday, when the Plumbers' Registration Bill is to be considered.

POSTAL FACILITIES (SCOTLAND).

MR. J. G. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, if he will state how many telegraph offices have been established under guarantee in the crofting counties of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland within the last three years; and whether any, and, if so, how many of these offices now pay expenses.

The HON. MEMBER also asked the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, how many telegraph offices have been established without guarantee in the crofting counties of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland within the last three years?

*MR. HANBURY: The hon. Member will perhaps allow me to answer the two Questions together. It will take some time to prepare the particulars asked for, but the Postmaster General will be happy to combine the further information with that already promised on the 4th ultimo.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, if he will state whether £5 per annum is the guarantee usually demanded for the establishment of a money order office when a guarantee is requisite, and whether any money order offices have been established in the Crofting counties of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland under guarantee during the last three years; and, if so, how many; and will he state how many money order offices have been established in these counties during the last three years without guarantee?

MR. HANBURY: The guarantee demanded in the case of money order offices is always £5 per annum, but in future, in view of the arrangements announced in the Budget, the Department will share any deficiency that may accrue with the guarantors, so that the maximum liability under a guarantee will be £2 10s. only. During the last three years ten Money Order Offices have been opened in the Crofting counties of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, nine of which were opened without a guarantee.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General (1) whether he is aware that the £1,000, hitherto placed at the disposal of the Secretary for Scotland for providing telegraph extensions in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, has been eliminated from this year's Estimates; and (2) whether, in view of the difficulty experienced by the people of the Highlands in providing guarantees for telegraph extensions, will he place himself in communication with the Treasury and the Scottish Office with a view to earmark for guarantees for telegraph extensions in the Highlands a portion of this year's Post Office Telegraph Extension Vote of £18,000, so that extensions may be guaranteed to such places in the Highlands of Scotland, as the Secretary for Scotland may designate?

MR. HANBURY: Yes, Sir; the Postmaster General is aware that the amount referred to is not included in this year's Estimates. The Postmaster General is not sure that he understands the second paragraph of the hon. Member's Question; but the sum of £18,000 referred to will be available for any extensions in the Highlands for which guarantees may be forthcoming, and extensions on guarantee will, of course, be granted in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, as elsewhere, on the easier terms announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in this year's Budget. There does not in the circumstances appear to be any necessity for the Postmaster General to communicate with the Treasury and Scottish Office on the subject.

BRENNAN TORPEDOES.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War if he will state how many Brennan torpedoes have been manufactured since 1887; and, how many of these torpedoes have been supplied to each of the Naval stations in the United Kingdom?

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE WAR OFFICE (Mr. POWELL-WILLIAMS, Birmingham, S.): No, Sir. It would not be for the good of the public service that I should answer either part of the Question. The hon. Member has been already informed that the supply of these torpedoes is satisfactory to Her Majesty's Government.

MACHINE GUNS (ROYALTIES).

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War if he will state whether the Government are paying any royalties on the Gardner, Hotchkiss, Nordenfeldt, and Gatling guns; and, if so, will he state how much royalty is paid on each of the respective guns and when the royalties will cease?

MR. POWELL-WILLIAMS: The War Office is not paying royalties on any of the guns named in the Question.

OUTRAGES AT POONA.

SIR EDWARD GOURLEY (Sunderland): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether, in view of the grave state of affairs in India, he will advise the immediate return of the Government from Simla to Calcutta; and will he also make such arrangements for the future as will secure the presence of the employés at all seasons (save when on leave) in Calcutta, and thus obviate the necessity for the large annual expenditure involved in moving them to and from Simla?

LORD GEORGE HAMILTON: I have no intention of offering advice on this subject to the Government of India as I have complete confidence in their judgment as to the necessities of the situation. The question of the annual migration to and from Simla was carefully considered by one of my predecessors in office about nine years ago, and I see no reason for altering the arrangements which were then sanctioned.

PLAGUE IN INDIA.

SIR WILLIAM WEDDERBURN (Banffshire): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he will provide facilities for the discussion of the present critical condition of affairs in Poona?

SIR L. McIVER (Edinburgh, W.): Before the right hon. Gentleman answers the Question, may I ask him a Question of which I have given him private notice? It is this—whether the Government have received any such information from Bombay as will enable the right hon. Gentleman or the Secretary of State for India, to express an authoritative opinion upon the contents of the memorial relating to the measures adopted for the suppression of the plague which was mentioned by the hon. Member for Banffshire last week in connection with the recent murders in Poona?

*LORD GEORGE HAMILTON: Perhaps my hon. Friend will allow me to answer the Question, which will take precedence of that upon the Paper. The House will recollect that on Thursday last the hon. Member for Banffshire put to me a series of Questions, in connection with the Poona murders, upon the contents of a memorial addressed to the Bombay Government as to the methods adopted at Poona for the suppression of the plague. The memorial contained also allegations of gross misconduct against the search parties employed by the Government. The memorial was sent to me by the hon. Baronet the day before he put the Question, and it was unaccompanied by any statement supporting its allegations. I was unable then to express any opinion as to the credibility of its assertions, but I at once telegraphed to Lord Sandhurst asking him to send me a categorical reply to each series of accusations. In the meantime the memorial has been published, no doubt in good faith, by certain newspapers, and strong expressions of opinion have been given in the belief that these allegations and others even stronger by anonymous writers could not in the main be false. I have now a full reply from the Bombay Government, which I will read to the House. [*Cheers.*] It is of considerable length, but in the circumstances the House will feel that I am justified. ["Hear, hear!"] The reply is divided into several heads, and therefore each will be prefaced by a statement of the allegations to which it refers:—

"From Governor, Bombay, July 4, 1897. Deccan Subha Memorial, dated May 10, and petition were not received till May 21, by which time the search, lime washing, and disinfecting parties had been discontinued and military camp broken up. Statements in petition grossly misleading."

Allegation A:—

"People are often sent to the plague hospital without a proper medical examination being previously made to satisfy the authorities that the persons removed are suffering from plague."

Reply:—

"People only sent to hospital after careful medical examination, and if showing symptoms indicative of possible plague."

Sir L. McIver.

Allegation B:—

"Relatives and neighbours of plague patients, and even passers-by, are at once hurried to the segregation camp, without being allowed time to make proper arrangements for the custody of the property in their houses."

Reply:—

"Greatest care was taken not to remove to segregation camp any but those necessary to keep under observation. Time was allowed for preparation, and one member of household was allowed to stay behind to look after property."

Allegation C:—

"In the inspection of inmates of houses sometimes persons are subjected to the indignity of being forced to remove all the clothes from their bodies in the presence of the members of the search parties and other people."

Reply:—

"I have not yet heard any allegations of indignity being substantiated. I know that genlteness and consideration were shown."

[*Cheers.*] Allegation D:—

"The native gentlemen who volunteered to accompany search parties, and were appointed by the committee to that duty, are slighted, and their suggestions are disregarded. In support of this we beg that reference may be made to these gentlemen, who, feeling that they are not properly trusted, decline to accompany the search parties."

Reply:—

"Native gentlemen were asked to accompany search parties, and did so to the very end. They were specially desired to bring to notice all complaints which reached them and to mark down any offending soldier and report to officers."

Allegation E:—

"In the inspection of houses no respect is shown to the religious sentiments of natives, in regard to the sanctity of the kitchen and of rooms where worship is offered. In some cases the idols in the Hindoo temples have been polluted."

Reply:—

"Search parties were instructed to have regard to religious feelings. Possibility of abuse of those feelings minimised by the presence of native gentlemen."

Allegation F:—

"Notwithstanding the injunctions of the committee in that behalf, much mischief is done in regard of property in burning or destroying, though the rules of the committee require that only the bedding and the clothing of the deceased should be burnt."

Reply:—

"Special care was taken to avoid needless destruction of property, and compensation given for property destroyed."

Allegation G:—

"Persons occupying houses are threatened, and in some cases assaulted, when they remonstrate against the procedure followed by the search parties in the matter of forcibly opening locks and destroying property."

Reply:—

"No unnecessary violence was used in entering houses."

Allegation H:—

"In a few cases the modesty of native ladies has not been respected."

Reply:—

"I do not believe the possibility of indignity to native women, owing to presence of lady doctors and other ladies with the search parties."

["Hear, hear!"] Allegation I:—

"Complaints were made to the committee, but the persons injured have failed to obtain redress. The parties injured have no means of finding out the names of the soldiers who misbehave, and who thus bring discredit on the whole body."

Reply:—

"Officers were in plentiful attendance, and it was made known that complaints should be made to them. See also D as to agency employed. English soldiers amounted to little more than one-third of total number, remainder being natives. English soldiers employed mainly for search parties, and their employment certainly not more calculated to cause annoyance than employment of natives, and experience showed for this work the necessity for European agency where procurable. In Poona the only European agency obtainable on a large scale was military. Results show the great efficiency of system adopted."

With respect to himself Lord Sandhurst says:—

"I went to Poona to see about ladies and native gentlemen accompanying search parties; called together leaders of communities and explained what must be done, and that all regard would be paid to religious and other feelings, and asked their aid. I visited Poona twice during operations for inquiry and discussion with Rand and others; never could I find serious complaints substantiated. I kept close touch, hearing from Rand daily. No specific charge of misconduct was made to me during progress of the operations. I give strongest and most emphatic contradiction to the statement that search parties exceeded instructions and grossly misconducted themselves. [*Cheers.*] The search parties when at work were under commissioned and non-commissioned officers. One of the ladies, Miss Bernard, having 20 years' experience zenana work, and most sympathetic to natives, authorises me to say that she was much struck by the gentleness of the officers and the control of the soldiers, that the officers impressed on the men the delicate nature of the duties, that after the first day or two when there was some little apprehension which was easily allayed by the ladies and native gentlemen accompanying the search parties, they were met with cheerfulness; that Rand listened to all complaints and suggestions, and was kind and courteous to all. In Rand the Civil Service loses a most able and devoted officer. From inquiries made from various sources I am convinced that Poona owes gratitude to officers and men, English and natives, for the duties so well and so considerately performed."

[*Cheers.*] I would only wish to add an expression of my own opinion on two matters. I would wish to endorse the high opinion entertained by Lord Sandhurst of the late Mr. Rand and his work ["Hear, hear!"] He was a most capable and promising public servant, who carried out with rare success the terrible trying duty of stamping out the plague in Poona. During the whole time he was thus engaged he was subject to the most violent personal denunciation and defamation by a certain section of the Press and community. He has fallen a victim in the successful discharge of a great public duty, and I am sure that, under these circumstances, both Members of this House and the Press of this country will exercise great caution before they put into circulation statements calculated to defame his character and work, unless they are personally convinced of the accuracy of any charge they publish. [*Cheers.*] This caution will, I am sure, be observed also in reference to the more grave charges that, without one iota of evidence, are being made about military officers and their men. As to Lord Sandhurst, he has from the first outbreak of plague personally supervised and controlled the measures of its suppression. Whenever any hitch occurred either at Poona or Bombay he has personally visited the locality, and by his consideration, tact, and forethought reassured and carried with him the natives whom he has met. He emphatically repudiates these charges, and I unhesitatingly endorse his repudiation. [*Cheers.*] Lord Sandhurst's conduct throughout the whole period of these plague difficulties has been such as to merit and obtain the complete confidence of Her Majesty's Government, and I think I may add of his late political colleagues and associates. [*Cheers.*]

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): After what has fallen from my noble Friend, it is only necessary for me to say, in answer to the Question on the Paper, that, in the opinion of the Government, it is both unnecessary and contrary to the public interests that the discussion which the hon. Baronet desires should take place. [*Cheers.*]

MR. BRYN ROBERTS (Carnarvonshire, Eifion) asked whether the memorial referred to did not contain specific statements in proof or attempted proof of the different heads of complaint, and whether the reply contained any explicit explanation or denial of those statements?

LORD GEORGE HAMILTON: In no single case has any serious charge of misconduct been substantiated.

MR. JAMES LOWTHER (Kent, Thanet) asked whether it was true, as reported in certain newspapers, that negotiations had been entered into by the police authorities with the rioters?

LORD GEORGE HAMILTON did not understand that there was any intention on the part of the Government that any compromise whatever should be come to between the police and the rioters.

MR. JAMES LOWTHER asked whether he was to take it that the statement in *The Times* was in error?

LORD GEORGE HAMILTON: So far as I know, you may take it that it is so.

CASTLEBAR POST OFFICE.

DR. ROBERT AMBROSE (Mayo, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether his attention has been called to the want of sanitary accommodation in the Castlebar Post Office, where the work has to be done by 12 officials in a room 12 feet square, without the slightest regard to ordinary sanitation, and will he see that proper sanitary accommodation is provided; is he aware that, with a population of 4,000, Castlebar is supplied with only one postman, and that it is impossible for one man to deliver letters in a town of that size in sufficient time for the replies to catch the Dublin mail train; and will he remedy such inconvenience by the appointment of another postman?

MR. HANBURY: The room in which the main business of the Post Office at Castlebar is conducted measures 20 feet 9 inches by 14 feet 6 inches. The accommodation is inadequate, and for some time past the Postmaster General has been looking out for larger premises; but, although several proposals have been under consideration, nothing suitable has been as yet found at a cost which the amount of business would justify. The inquiry is still continuing. As regards the sanitary accommodation in the present office, it is reported to be the kind usually found in houses of that class. Two postmen are already employed at Castlebar, and inquiry is now being made to see whether the services of both these men cannot be utilised in the delivery of letters.

WALLACE BEQUEST.

DR. FARQUHARSON (Aberdeen, W.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he can state the decision arrived at by the Government with reference to the permanent housing of the Wallace Bequest?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: As the House is aware, a Committee was appointed to consider the question dealt with by the hon. Gentleman in the interrogatory which he has addressed to me. That Committee has reported almost unanimously in favour of the purchase of Hertford House for the retention of the Wallace collection at Hertford House. The report of the Committee will be laid before Parliament very shortly. The Government propose to follow the advice given by the Committee. ["Hear, hear!"]

KILKENNY WATERWORKS.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury, whether he can say why the Local Government Board (Ireland) Provisional Order Bill (No. 1), which relates to the

Kilkenny Waterworks, and which got the Royal Assent on the 3rd ultimo, is not yet printed; whether he is aware that such delays in the printing of such Bills is usual, and causes much loss of time and inconvenience to those interested in carrying out the works authorised by such Bills; what is the cause of the delay in this case; and, can he say when it will be issued? The hon. Member added that he did not propose to ask the first paragraph of the question, as the Bill referred to had now been issued.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: I do not thoroughly understand, myself, the whole process that has to be gone through, but I am told that some delay is unavoidable, in order to get the statutes when passed into their proper order on the Statute-book, I am also informed that had the printers known that this was a matter of urgency the Bill would have been in the hands of the public at a somewhat earlier day than that at which it was offered for sale.

DESTRUCTION OF CROPS (ESSEX).

MAJOR RASCH (Essex, S.E.) asked the President of the Board of Agriculture whether he could give any information as to the extent of the disaster occasioned by the recent storm in Essex?

MR. LONG said he was unable at that moment to give any exact information as to the area affected by the recent storm in Essex, but he would endeavour to obtain it as speedily as possible from his inspector on the spot.

INDIAN BUDGET.

SIR WILLIAM WEDDERBURN: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether under present circumstances, he will fix the Debate on the Indian Budget for an early date?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: I do not think that there is any reason for giving a different answer than that which I have already given the hon. Gentleman in answer to the same Question in the course of the present Session. I am, of course, anxious to consult the convenience of the House in regard to this matter, but I doubt whether it would be desirable to make any alteration in the ordinary date fixed.

NAVAL WORKS [MONEY].

MR. T. LOUGH (Islington, W.) asked whether it was the intention of the Government to proceed this afternoon with the first Order on the Paper, the Naval Works (Committee).

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY said he put down that Order on the Paper in deference to a wish expressed by the Leader of the Opposition last Friday, and he still thought that if the House would be content to take this stage *sub silentio*, as they did last year, and defer the discussion till the Second Reading of the Bill, it would be the most convenient course. He could not afford time to-night for this discussion, and if hon. Gentlemen desired such discussion at the present stage he should of course put off the Order.

Considered in Committee.

[The CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS Mr. J. W. LOWTHER, in the Chair.]

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That it is expedient—

(*a*) to make provision for the construction of works and acquisition of land in the United Kingdom and elsewhere for the purposes of the Royal Navy;

(*b*) to authorise the issue, out of the Consolidated Fund, of such sums, not exceeding in the whole £654,000, as may be required for such purposes; and

(*c*) to authorise the application of the surplus set apart, under Section four of the the Naval Works Act 1896, to the payment of the expenses of such works."—(*Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*)

MR. LLOYD GEORGE (Carnarvon Boroughs) submitted that it was unreasonable that money should be voted without any explanation on the part of the department concerned. The Committee had only a vague general idea as to what the money was for. He thought there ought to be some explanation, otherwise it would be his duty to move to report progress.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER said the Bill did not authorise the raising of any new money at all. What happened last year was that the surplus of 1895–96 was voted by Parliament for the purposes of naval works, and the proposed Bill would simply increase the power of the

Admiralty to spend the money which had been already provided by Parliament for that very purpose.

MR. LLOYD GEORGE moved "That the Chairman do report Progress, and ask leave to sit again."

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS, being of opinion that the Motion was an abuse of the Rules of the House, declined to propose the Question thereupon to the Committee.

Resolution agreed to; to be reported to-morrow.

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

WORKMEN (COMPENSATION FOR ACCIDENTS) BILL.

As amended, considered.

Clause 4.

COMPENSATION TO WORKMEN IN CASE OF BANKRUPTCY OF EMPLOYER.

Where any employer becomes liable under this Act to pay compensation to any workman or his representatives in respect of any accident and is entitled to any sum from insurers in respect of such liability, then in the event of the bankruptcy or liquidation of such employer such workman or representative shall have a charge upon the sum aforesaid for the payment of the money so due to him.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY, Lancashire, Blackpool) moved to insert after Clause 4 the following clause:—

RECOVERY OF DAMAGES FROM STRANGER.

"Where the injury was caused under circumstances creating a legal liability in some person other than the employer to pay damages in respect thereof the workman may, at his option, proceed either at law against that person to recover damages or against his employer for compensation under this Act, but not against both, and if compensation be paid under this Act the employer shall be entitled to be indemnified by the said other person."

MR. LAWSON WALTON (Leeds, S.) supported the clause as being a distinct improvement on the original clause.

Chancellor of the Exchequer.

MR. C. A. CRIPPS (Gloucester, Stroud) rose to move the rejection of the clause on the ground that the principle involved in it was one which ought not to be adopted. The principle was that it was not right to make an employer liable for the act of a stranger over whom he had no control, either direct or indirect. It would be a novel principle to incorporate not only in a Bill of this kind, but in respect of a liability between citizen and citizen. The Home Secretary pointed out that if this clause was adopted he would have to amend the form of Clause 1; but that remark raised the question whether the House of Commons was to introduce for the first time a principle hitherto unknown in English law, and utterly inconsistent with justice. If the Committee were discussing the matter, not as between employer and employed, but as between citizen and citizen, he did not believe that any hon. Member would suggest that it would be consonant with natural justice to make one man liable for the wrong brought about by another, and in respect of whose act the employer had no control either direct or indirect. It was suggested that the point might be met by the principle of insurance. The answer to that was that they could not remedy an injustice which was created by making an employer insure in respect of a liability under which he ought never to have been placed. In the case of the smaller employer it was doubtful whether the principle of insurance would apply at all. Take the case of a small employer who employed workmen almost as well-off as himself, and assume that a workman was injured by the act of some stranger for whom the employer was not liable directly or indirectly. If the workman was injured, or if death was caused, the full responsibility for the act of the stranger would, in the first case, be transferred to the shoulders of the employer. What could be more unjust than the case of a small employer who was being ruined by a liability of that kind in order that they might give this special form of remedy to the employé against his employer? If a workman had a liability to impose on any one let him impose it on the person who had caused the injury. Suppose, again, the man who had caused the injury was a mere man of straw, or a man against whom the employer could not proceed. The Committee threw the responsibility on the employer; they made one citizen responsible for the act of another; and he challenged any hon. Member to show an instance where up to this moment such a principle had been adopted. The Committee had been told that at certain stages of this Bill they had to throw logic on one side and justice was to be disregarded. If they attempted to bury the phantom of logic he thought it would arise in the form of a convincing deity before long. He heard the Colonial Secretary say that justice was to be disregarded because the Committee were dealing with a question of expediency. But in matters of legislation they could not disregard justice except on one principle—and that was when they sacrificed a less justice in order to obtain a greater; and if on any other principle they sacrificed logic and justice they obtained a cynical opportunism which ought not to be taken as the basis of any legislation. [*Cheers.*]

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Sir RICHARD WEBSTER, Isle of Wight) said that his hon. and learned Friend had misunderstood the point of the Amendment. The House had decided by Clause I. that there should be compensation for injury by accident; and then, that where such injury should be caused by the act of a stranger a workman might have the option of suing either at law or against his employer for compensation. That having been the result of the decision of the House he had undertaken to put the matter in a better form, and the whole effect of the clause against which such strong language had been used was to give the indemnity over to the employer against the third person.

SIR ROBERT REID (Dumfries Burghs) said that it was obviously the intention of some hon. Gentlemen to discuss the principle underlying the Bill. But that was not the most convenient time to select for the purpose. The time to select was when the first clause had to be dealt with. This clause gave the employer an indemnity over and against any stranger who might have caused an accident.

MR. JAMES LOWTHER (Kent, Thanet) could not agree with the hon. and learned Gentleman that this was not the proper occasion to discuss a question of principle. He observed that those who supported the Bill always thought that criticism ought to be deferred to a more convenient season, though it was seldom pointed out when that season should arrive. It was urged that criticism on this clause ought to be reserved until the Committee was asked to discuss another clause of the Bill; but if that advice were taken hon. Members would then be told that the Committee had already affirmed the principle, and that it was too late to reopen the question. The Attorney General upbraided his hon. and learned Friend for speaking at great length; but he thought that his hon. Friend had condensed his remarks within very narrow compass. The House was now a Court of Appeal. It was their duty to review the decisions of the Committee, and he hoped they would reverse a great deal of what the Committee did, for they had played fast and loose with the fundamental principles which had hitherto guided the legislation of this country. The House was asked to agree that a person was to be responsible for the acts of individuals over whom he had no control whatever. He could conceive of nothing more strenuously unjust. It was all very well to be benevolent and charitable at other people's expense; but he hoped the House would bear in mind that a clause such as this committed them to the enunciation of a doctrine fraught with danger of injustice to all persons concerned. They might be told it would affect only one class—the employers. He ventured to say the workmen themselves would have cause to find the greatest fault with legislation that was likely to drive capital and trade out of the country. The principle contained in this clause appeared to him to be, if possible, more unjust than a great deal already in the Bill; and as there would be no opportunity of eliminating it, he hoped the right hon. and learned Gentleman would give ear to the appeals which had been made to the House's sense of justice. He did not approach the subject with any prejudice. He had always thought that compensation should be paid from some quarter to those upon whom misfortune fell in the course of their employment. But he could not see why the whole burden of what was really a national obligation should fall on one class. He protested altogether against such legislation. He had hoped that some scheme would be found under which the burden should be more fairly distributed over the whole community; and he trusted the Government would at this stage of the Bill devise some method of avoiding what seemed to him to be rank injustice.

MR. J. WILSON (Durham, Mid) wished to say a word as to the meaning of the proposed substitutionary clause. The words of the first clause, to which the Attorney General had referred were very plain, and defined clearly that it was against the stranger that the employer would have to go for an indemnity. The clause that was to be substituted was much broader in character. He understood the definition of "a stranger" in the first clause to be some one altogether out of the employment. The new clause said that "where the injury was caused under circumstances creating legal liability in some person other than the employer," and he wanted a definition of "other persons." He took it that the words meant any person either in the same employ or outside it. He would put a case to the Attorney General or any other hon. Gentleman on the Front Bench. Suppose a foreman, or any other person in the same employment, should be the cause of injury to a workman; as he read the clause, the employer would have an indemnity against that other person. A great deal had been said about the workman getting benefit from the Bill. He failed to see how he was going to get much benefit if Amendments of this sort were introduced. Many, if not most of the Amendments already inserted into the Bill had been, in his opinion, to the detriment of the workman. He wanted to know, therefore, whether under this clause an employer would be entitled to get an indemnity for any man in his employ who caused injury to another. Not only for the working of the Bill, if passed into an Act, but also to justify the acceptance of this clause, they ought to have some statement from those in charge of the Bill as to what "other person" would include. In his opinion the terms of the Bill as it stood were better, for they knew that it was against the stranger only that the employer could proceed. Perhaps the Attorney General would tell them that "other person" meant a stranger outside the employment, but they ought to know clearly what was meant.

MR. CHARLES RENSHAW (Renfrew, W.) reminded the right hon. Gentleman and the House that, if he remembered correctly, the Amendment giving the employer the right of claiming indemnity was put into the Bill in the Committee stage without being even on the Paper.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL said the hon. Member was in error.

*MR. RENSHAW said at all events there was very little discussion upon it. He would remind the hon. Gentleman that the Committee stage was taken very quickly after the Second Reading. Members had had an opportunity of meeting their constituents between Committee and Report on the provisions of the Bill. He should like to say with regard to this point that the question raised in the clause, or in Clause I., when it was reached, had been unanimously disapproved at a large meeting of employers in the County of Renfrew. They regarded it as going far beyond the original scope and intention of the Bill. Speaking as an employer, it seemed to him that they were being placed in a very unfair position, even though the term "stranger" was not used, but he was introduced under the alias of "some person other than the employer." Grave as was the burden thrown on the employer by the provision originally introduced, it would be materially increased by this clause, and he hoped the Government would not pass it. The hon. Member for Dumfries Burghs spoke as if the clause dealt only with the act of a foreman. It was not, he apprehended, the act of any foreman that employers generally were anxious about under this clause—it was the interference of absolutely outside individuals; and it was because they protested against being made responsible for the actions of persons in whom they had no interest, and over whom they had no control, that he should vote against the insertion of the clause.

SIR JAMES JOICEY (Durham, Chester-le-Street) wished to say one word before the right hon. Gentleman replied, because the Bill had been rushed through the House and many hon. Members had but a vague idea as to its effect. The Bill contained a principle which, as a hon. and learned Gentleman opposite had said, had not hitherto been recognised in any of our legislation. Take a case or two to show what would be the effect of this Amendment. A workman in the course of his employment had to go a journey by railway, and the man was injured. He gathered from this clause that the workman would have the right to claim compensation from his employer for an accident caused by a railway company, over which, of course, he had no control whatever.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: Oh, no.

SIR J. JOICEY said he would like the House to be satisfied on that point. They had been led to understand that the Bill was to do away with litigation and law expenses; but, assuming that he was right in his view of the clause, the employer, after appearing before the arbitrator, would have to sue the railway company, and there would be more litigation and more costs. Take another case. An employer found it necessary to send a workman from one part of London to another, and in crossing Piccadilly the man was knocked down by an omnibus or cart. He gathered from this clause that the workman would have the right first of going against his employer for an accident with which his employer had nothing to do, and the employer would have to take his chance of whether the owner of the vehicle was a man of means or not. He should be glad to be satisfied by the right hon. Gentleman as to whether the cases he had mentioned would be comprised in the clause; because if they were, there was, in his judgment, something in the principle here laid down that the country ought to be informed of before the House passed such legislation as this. They were making such a departure that nobody knew what it would lead to.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.) said he would not discuss the whole principle of the Bill on this clause. The opposition to the clause was largely due to misunderstanding. The two cases the hon. Baronet opposite had given would not involve the employer in liability. In reply to his hon. Friend behind him, he might make the same remark. He did not see what ground he had for fear. According to the Bill, the accidents to workmen, for which the employer would be liable, must arise "in the course of his employment or arise out of his employment." If a man in the employ of a railway company met with an accident, due to a defect in machinery, owing to the negligence of the person supplying the machine, the clause gave the workman the option of going against the person who supplied the machine instead of the railway company, and gave the company a remainder over against the person who supplied the machine. This diminished the employer's liability rather than increased it. If a carpenter, in works subject to the Bill, ran over a workman, the workman in that case would have the option of two remedies. Whether the clause was right or wrong, it was not open to the objection that had been raised against it. The whole object of the Government was to make clear and improve the phraseology of an Amendment which had been accepted without opposition from any quarter.

MR. STUART-WORTLEY (Sheffield, Hallam) contended that the words of the clause did not create any liability which was not created by the words of the Bill. They were words of procedure, which placed employers in a better position than otherwise. They did not apply to any cases but those arising in the course of or out of employment, in which alone the workman was entitled to compensation. The words created no new liability, and in the interets of the employer it would be dangerous to omit them from the Bill.

*SIR ALFRED HICKMAN (Wolverhampton, W.) said that if a workman brought an action against a third party, from whom he had received injury while following his employment, the latter might plead contributory negligence. But the man's employer could not, when sued, plead this, however justified, and that was an unfair position for the employer to be placed in.

MR. H. H. ASQUITH (Fife, E.) agreed with the hon. and learned Member for Sheffield that this clause created no new liability, though it might enlarge or extend what was or would be enacted when they came to Clause 1. He himself was in favour of the clause for several reasons. He could see nothing more unjust in making an employer liable for the act of a stranger than in making him liable for "the act of God." Under the Bill he was clearly liable for the latter if the injury arose out of or in the course of the workman's employment. It was clear that the cases put by the hon. Member for Durham would fall within the scope of the Bill.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: The point has been foreseen, and there are Amendments on the Paper expressly to include these cases.

MR. ASQUITH said he had not observed them, though he had studied the Amendments. It was quite clear under the Bill that if a commercial traveller sustained personal injury on the railway while soliciting orders for his firm the latter were liable to pay compensation. The right hon. Member for Thanet said the Bill was founded on no doctrine of moral responsibility whatever. [*Cheers.*] Moral responsibility had nothing whatever to do with it. [*Renewed cheers.*] The Secretary for the Colonies had said so over and over again. The theory of the Bill was not that the employer should be liable in some respect in which he was blameworthy, but that what was called "the trade" should be made liable as one of its necessary and incidental expenses for all injuries sustained. On whom that would fall was a question about which they might argue. The clause was necessary for the protection of the employer, and to make clear and definite the rights of the workman. If the Bill were left without the clause, it might be argued that the workman, being given this right of compensation, had forfeited the right he would have had against a third person. But if the clause was not passed, the employer, who was bound to pay compensation to his workman for the wrongful act of another, could not sue the latter for indemnity.

*SIR FRANCIS POWELL (Wigan) said employers of labour entertained grave apprehension about this clause. It was to his mind unjust that any person should be made responsible for the act of another person of whom he might know nothing whatever, and over whom in many cases he had no control whatever. Natural justice revolted against it. He believed that insurance would be impossible except at such high rates as would impose a most unjust burden upon trade. He hoped the Government would reconsider their course.

MR. REGINALD McKENNA (Monmouth, N.) submitted that nine-tenths of the discussion on this clause had not been relevant, as the words "where the injury was caused under circumstances creating a legal liability" were governed by the preceding words in Clause 1, where a legal liability was defined. The words in the first clause to which he referred were,—

> "If in any employment to which this Act applies personal injury arising out of and in the course of the employment is caused to a workman,"

and the discussion they had listened to would be relevant on the point as to whether those words were a sufficient definition of an accident in order to enable a workman to get compensation. It was not, however, relevant, he submitted, to this particular clause, which simply gave a relief to the employer.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis) said the intention of this clause was on the introduction of this Measure distinctly repudiated by the Secretary for the Colonies. Did the right hon. Gentleman deny that?

MR. CHAMBERLAIN said their view was that it was in the original Bill; this clause did not make it any different, but only made clearer what was intended.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES said the right hon. Gentleman, on the introduction of the Bill, said they were dealing, not with accidents caused by negligence, but with inevitable accident or misfortune. Now this clause dealt solely with accidents caused either by guilt or negligence. It stood to reason, therefore, that this clause was never thought of when the Bill was introduced, but was now brought forward owing to the irresistible pressure which had been exercised. It seemed to him that the right hon. Member for East Fife had given a diametrically different construction of the clause to that put upon it by the Colonial Secretary and the Attorney General, and he thought it was absolutely imperative for Members on that side who objected to the clause to divide upon it. They had been surprised to see the Amendments at this stage put down in the name of the Home Secretary, as it was the Secretary for the Colonies who took charge of the Bill in the Committee stage. The right hon. Gentleman, moreover, had put down 92 Amendments, which together were greater in length than the whole of the original Bill, including the Schedule.

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order; The hon. Member is not in order in discussing that.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: No, Sir; I was commenting on the inconvenience of having the Amendment of one Minister explained by another. [*Laughter.*] He thought they ought to have some further explanation from the originator of this clause. He cited the case of a workman who, while travelling on a railway in the service of his employer, met with an accident. He denied that any subsequent Amendments upon the Paper modified this clause—they left the clause exactly as it stood. This clause showed for the first time the injustice, in all its naked proportions, that would be inflicted by some of the provisions of this Bill. It seemed that logic, justice, and responsibility had gone. It had been shown that this clause would impose a liability on the employer unknown to English law, and he hoped that every Member who believed in the principle which was the bed-rock of the Tory Party—that honestly earned property should be safeguarded—would vote against this clause.

MR. W. ALLAN (Gateshead) asked why the words "or firm" were not inserted after the words "in some person?" There were many cases where a workman was injured by the negligence of a man, and could not discover who the man was, although he would know by what firm he was employed. He instanced the case of an engineer who was employed in a shipyard on the outside of a vessel, and a man up above let fall upon him a rivet or hammer, by which he was killed or seriously injured. Such cases were of common occurrence, and the injured man might often be unable to discover who was the actual man by whose negligence he was injured. He thought the clause needed Amendment so as to cover firms employing "other persons."

*SIR WILLIAM HOULDSWORTH (Manchester, N.W.) thought the House was entitled to a little more information in regard to the effect of the clause before they disposed of it. He was a loyal supporter of the Bill, but if the interpretation of the clause given by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for East Fife was correct, then none of the employers of the country had any adequate conception of the enormous scope and application of the Bill. It seemed that not only were employers to be responsible for all accidents that took place in the course of their employment, but they were to be responsible for a number of accidents under circumstances that none of them ever supposed would be included within the scope of the Measure. He thought the House was entitled to information from those in charge of the Bill as to whether the interpretation of the right hon. Gentleman opposite was correct.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL said he could only speak again by leave of the House. He desired to make perfectly plain that the clause did not increase the liability of employers at all. ["Hear, hear!"] If anything it was in favour of employers. ["Hear, hear!"] Take the case of an engine which had been so badly put together that while working in a mill the fly-wheel went to pieces and injured 20 persons. That being an accident which happened in the course of employment there would be compensation under the Bill and the compensation would be payable by the employer of the workmen—that was the mill-owner; but as the accident was really occasioned by the engine maker the object of the clause was to give to the employer a remedy against him. There was another case—the case of an employer who sent his carter to the railway station in order to unload goods from trucks, and a crane which was badly managed led to an accident in which the leg of a railway porter and the leg of the man who was sent with the cart were broken. There would be no remedy by the carter against his employer for that accident, but he would have a remedy against the railway company for negligence, and, of course, the railway porter would also have a remedy against the railway company as he was in their employment.

MR. SYDNEY GEDGE (Walsall) put the case of a man sent on an errand by his employer, and run over at the level crossing, through his own wilful negligence. The defence of contributory negligence would be good for the railway company against any claim by the injured man. But would the employer be able to plead the same defence?

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: The employer would not be liable at all.

Mr. GEDGE said that the point was likely to lead to litigation, and the House was entitled to an authoritative declaration on the point. This clause would increase the liability of the employer far beyond anything contemplated when the Bill was read a Second time. Nothing could more increase litigation than a provision giving the workman the choice of two kinds of action, one of them involving another action. It was no answer to say that the employer's liability would be covered by insurance; because in the long run insurance must be more costly than damages. Insurance only distributed the payment; and the insurance company had to make the profit. Since the Second Reading he had consulted his constituents, and he found that every employer, Conservative and Radical alike, was diametrically opposed to this Bill and to any extension of it.

Mr. PARKER SMITH (Lanarkshire, Partick) said it was a surprise to find this clause defended on the ground that it was necessary, for the protection of the employer. It had been conceived on the other side in quite a different spirit. At present there was a provision in the Bill to the effect that the contractor was liable for his own men; but the Home Secretary had an Amendment on the Paper to omit that provision, and that fact gave much more significance to the clause under discussion. He entirely accepted the principle of this Bill, but the present point could only be justified by regarding the Measure as an insurance scheme carried out to the fullest extent. But the employers had not yet been convinced that the charge which this Bill would impose was a charge which could justly be passed on to the public; and they would feel it as a great injustice if their liability were extended to the case where the workman was injured by the act or neglect of a stranger, over whom the employer had no control. The Government would be doing an ill-service to the Bill if they insisted on a provision which, on their own showing was of no particular value to the workman, and which raised the greatest feeling of resentment among the employers.

Mr. J. M. MACLEAN (Cardiff) said that the explanation given by the Attorney General did not meet the case put by the hon. Member for King's Lynn—that of the workman of one employer injured through the fault of the workman of another employer. Would the employer of the injured man have the right of action against the other man's employer? The right hon. Member for Fife had not defended this clause on the ground that it was necessary for the employer's protection. The right hon. Gentleman's argument was that if the employer was made responsible for the act of God, why not also for the act of a stranger? That argument would not commend itself to the employers in those trades affected by the Bill.

Mr. R. B. HALDANE (Haddingtonshire) said that hon. Gentlemen on the Opposition side of the House were quite clear that the Amendment was a limiting Amendment in the interests of the employer. Under the Bill the employer was liable for injury to his workman, whether the employer was to blame for the injury or not. This clause did not extend this principle. It only proposed to give a remedy against the stranger, for whose act the employer was already liable under the Bill. As the clause originally stood, the remedy given to the employer was only against the stranger, but now, as amended by the Government, it was given against everybody, including the foreman and fellow workman. Therefore, the employer was given something which he did not possess before. He consoled with the right hon. Gentlemen in charge of the Bill as good men struggling with adversity. The Debate on this clause had gone, not against small points, but against the whole principle of the Bill.

Question put, "That the Clause be read a Second time."

The House divided:—Ayes, 351; Noes, 43.—(Division List, No. 266).

Clause read a Second time.

Mr. GEDGE said that he had to move a slight addition to the clause in order that the remedy which was afforded should not be an illusory one.

Sir R. REID desired to move a verbal Amendment in the clause to carry out the purpose which had been indicated He moved to leave out the word "not" in order to insert the words "may not recover."

Mr. GIBSON BOWLES said it seemed to him that this was a very considerable alteration to make in the clause. It allowed a man to proceed against both parties, and opened the possibility of a new course of procedure to the workman by providing him with two courses.

Sir R. REID said he would not press the Amendment if it was not looked upon as a verbal one.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. GEDGE moved to add at the end of the clause,—

"The employer may in any such action avail himself of any defence of which such other person might avail himself."

He pointed out that unless words like these were added, the employer might be found liable for the accident, and that when he tried to obtain his remedy against the real author who had been negligent he might entirely fail, because he did not give evidence of contributory negligence.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL pointed out in reply that in the action the employer would be the plaintiff and not the defendant, and thus the words "avail himself of" would not apply. The scheme of the Bill was that the workman should bring his action against the employer, and that then the employer should bring his action against the third person.

Mr. VICARY GIBBS (Herts, St. Albans) asked whether the House was to understand that where a person had been injured by a stranger, and where the servant had contributed by his own negigence, the employer was to be debarred from setting up the defence in the action? This was a point which deserved the careful consideration of the Government. Even when they had abandoned moral responsibility and the claims of justice, there came a point when equity would arouse even the House of Commons to resentment; and this point was reached when they allowed the man who caused the accident to plead a defence against the employer which the employer could not plead against the man who caused the accident.

Mr. JAMES LOWTHER pressed for a word of explanation from the Government on a point felt to be of great importance.

Mr. W. E. M. TOMLINSON (Preston) asked whether it was intended by the words to give a complete indemnity to the employer in this case, or was a liability put upon him which he would not have apart from these words? Was the liability of the person who originally caused the accident to be extended by these words? Supposing the employer tried to get rid of the liability by insurance, would the person who caused the injury be entitled to say in advance against the action by the employer that the employer was insured?

Sir A. FORWOOD repeated the concrete case put by the hon. Member for Gateshead to the Government. An employer sent one of his engineers to work at the boring out of the post of a ship. A man dropped a hammer upon the engineer, and the engineer's employer would have to compensate the man. Would the employer of the engineer have a right of action against the employer of the man who dropped the hammer?

Mr. ASQUITH considered it was perfectly clear in that case that the workman would have a right to claim compensation from the employer. In the case put by the hon. Member for St. Albans the injured workman would have a right to claim compensation against his employer, but the employer would not have a right to be indemnified by either the workman who did the injury or the employer of the workman. The measure of liability imposed on the employer by this Bill was distinctly different from the liability which existed under common law or statute. This Amendment was a very good illustration.

Mr. GIBSON BOWLES did not think that the Attorney General had grappled with the case put before him. Was the employer not to have the same defence as the stranger himself? It seemed to be just that the employer should have the same defence.

Sir J. JOICEY said the intention was perfectly clear that by the Bill it was not intended to give the employer the same remedy against the stranger as the employé had against the employer. Supposing a man who had come from engineering works in London with a bolt in his pocket to do certain work should be run over by his own carelessness, and it was shown that he had contributed by his own negligence to the accident. By this Bill the employer would have to pay full compensation, but when he proceeded against the stranger it would be pleaded that the employé, not having used proper precautions, no case lay against the stranger.

Mr. HARRY FOSTER (Suffolk, Lowestoft) asked whether no Member of the Government was going to rise to deal with the point? Was it to be left to the late Home Secretary to explain it? This indemnity was no real indemnity to the employer at all. It was going a long way in the direction of injustice to say that the employer was to be liable for the act of a stranger. The House was prepared to go that length, but the House was also told that the employer in his turn, though possessing a right of indemnity against the person who had brought about the accident, would not be able to plead contributory negligence. The stranger, on the other hand, would be able to plead contributory negligence against the action of the employé. If that be so, then the indemnity was clearly an illusory one.

Mr. RENSHAW asked whether the Government would accept these words,—

"Such other person shall not be allowed to avail himself of any defence which would not be open to the employer."

[*Cheers.*]

The ATTORNEY GENERAL said that he could not accept the words, because they would enlarge the liability of the person in circumstances contrary to the principle of the Bill. The principle of the Bill was that an employer against whom a claim was made by a workman should not be allowed to plead contributory negligence. It was part of the system which formed the scheme of the Bill, that for this purpose contributory negligence should not be pleaded. Now, it was sought to say that the liability which was put upon the employer should also be put upon the third person. That was plainly beyond the scope of the Bill. The special liability which it had been thought desirable to impose upon the employer was not one that ought to be imposed upon the third person in this roundabout way. The Government, therefore, must adhere to the principle of the Bill; and if a third person had any good defence to a claim brought against him, there would be no legal liability on him.

Colonel DENNY (Kilmarnock Burghs) said that after the reply of the Attorney General it appeared to him that they would have to trust for legal guidance to the late Home Secretary—they were not going to get any on their own side of the House. It seemed that the liability put upon the employer was far greater than he had any means of remedying. It amounted to this—that while your workmen might come upon you under this Bill and bar you from pleading the doctrine of contributory negligence, you went into the fight with one hand tied behind your back, because the third person could plead against you the doctrine which you are debarred from pleading against your workman. It showed the danger of accepting Amendments without sufficiently considering how far they went. Personally he was not opposed to the principle of the Bill, but he did insist in his capacity as an employer, that he should receive, at any rate, equitable treatment at the hands of the Government.

Mr. GEDGE said that, after the unmistakable expression of the opinion of the House, he did not wish to press his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. RENSHAW proposed to add to the clause the words—

"Such other person shall not be allowed to avail himself of any defence which would not be open to the employer."

He thought that in submitting these words to the consideration of hon. Members, he might fairly appeal to their sense of justice. It was monstrous that the employer should be put in the position which he understood, from what had fallen from the Attorney General and the late Home Secretary, he would be placed in if this Bill were placed in the Statute-book in the form proposed. He hoped their common sense of what was just to employers would prevent them from being placed in that false position.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL said that in again repeating that it was not possible for the Government to accept the Amendment, he only desired to make one observation. The hon. Member for Dumbarton, who was no longer in his place, had complained of the absence of legal assistance from members of the Government. He did not wish to say anything about himself, but he did not think, in view of what passed in Committee and of the assistance which Ministers endeavoured to give on all legal points, that Members on their side of the House were in any way justified in such an observation. ["Hear, hear!"] With regard to this particular Amendment, he must again point out that it could not possibly be accepted, because by this Bill they were dealing with the liability of the employer and not with the liability of a third person. It might be right or wrong to say that when compensation was claimed under the Bill, the employer did not have the defence of contributory negligence. The hon. Gentleman did not propose an Amendment which would enable an employer to avail himself of that plea. He was only desirous that in a case in which there happened to be a remedy against a third person, this third person should not be allowed to plead the contributory negligence of the person injured. It was perfectly obvious that such an Amendment was not in accordance with the principle of the Bill. They had altered the law, rightly or wrongly, by saying that where compensation was claimed against an employer, the employer should not be allowed to plead the contributory negligence of the workman. It was not possible to go further and say that a third person who had nothing to do with the matter except that he was liable to an action should also have his right of defence cut down.

*MR. SPEAKER said the Amendment of the hon. Member for Renfrew seemed to him to be out of order, being outside the scope of the Bill. It was impossible to introduce in this Bill an Amendment to deprive a large class of persons, who were neither the employers nor the employed, of their common law rights.

SIR J. JOICEY, on a point of order, submitted that the Bill did put a liability on a third person—["No, no!"]—when it gave the employer the right to sue a third person, and the only thing they were seeking to do was to make it possible for the employer to recover the full amount of compensation he had to pay in consequence of that person's act.

*MR. SPEAKER said the workman might sue the third person, and the Bill only gave the employer the same right that the workman possessed. The Amendment was clearly out of order.

MR. LAWSON WALTON (Leeds, S.) said that in the original clause the employer, after compensating the workman, was entitled to recover in the name of the workman such damages as he could himself recover. Under this clause the employer was to have against the third person a right to an indemnity. Now the liability for indemnity thus cast upon the third person might be considerably larger than any right to damages which might be asserted and maintained by the workman. Surely it was not intended that the liability of the third person should be enlarged by the procedure provided in this Bill. If the workman were to elect to sue the third person, he might recover such damages as a jury might award. If he elected to go against his employer he would get compensation of a certain kind, according to a rather intricate schedule—it might be £1 a week for life. It could not be intended to cast upon the third person an obligation to indemnify the employer against his liability to give a pension for life. Clearly some words of limitation were needed, and he proposed to add to the clause, which he took it would now be adopted by the House, the following words:—"The employer shall be entitled to be indemnified by such other person to the extent of such damages and costs as the workman might have recovered against such other person by an independent action."

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY said there had been no oversight in putting the words on the Paper. The clause was advisedly intended to cover the very special difficulty raised by his hon. and learned Friend; and he was told by the right hon. and learned Gentleman, the Attorney General, that the case was amply met by the words on the Paper. He was not himself a lawyer, and he was bound to accept the Attorney General's assurance.

Mr. R. B. HALDANE said the words on the Paper were:—"shall be entitled to be indemnified by the said other person." It came to this, that if a stranger driving a dogcart ran over a workman in the street, who was there in the course of his employment, the workman might obtain from his employer a pension of £1 a week; and the employer under this clause was entitled to recover as against the third person, who might have injured the workman through no fault of his own—the thing might be a simple accident. The employer was thus given a right against outside public far exceeding anything the workman could recover as damages in a court of law. Under the principles of the Bill it might be quite right to impose liability for this larger compensation upon the employer, but it was not intended that such an extended liability should fall upon the general public.

Sir R. REID did not agree with his hon. Friend. If a person by his neglect caused an accident in such a manner that he was now liable by law to pay compensation for, the compensation, awarded by whatever tribunal, would be fair and full. If that was the case, he could not see why the employer should not recover the damages and thus be indemnified. That was what was intended, and it was only just.

Mr. GIBSON BOWLES suggested that if a workman was entitled as against his employer to £500, but might have recovered from the other person £1,000, this Amendment would entitle the employer to get the £1,000 from the other person—and he thought he ought to have it.

Mr. GEDGE said the proposal was that the employer should be indemnified for what he paid. There could be no question of profit or loss.

Mr. LAWSON WALTON withdrew his Amendment.

Mr. HALDANE moved the following clause:—

(1) Where, in any employment to which this Act applies, personal injury is caused to a workman by reason of the negligence of any person in the service of the workman's employer, the workman, or in case of death, his representatives, shall have the same right to compensation and remedies against the employer as if the workman had not been a workman of nor in the service of the employer, nor engaged in his work.

(2) A workman shall not be deemed to have accepted any risk incident to his employment by reason only of his having entered upon or continued in the employment after he knew of the risk.

He said this clause was happily less contentious than the last. There was hardly any hon. Member representing a working class constituency but had pledged himself on whatever side of the House he sat against the doctrine of common employment. It was against that doctrine that the new clause was levied. It proposed to put the workman in the same position as regarded his remedies that a stranger would be. Anyone who had taken the trouble to follow the course of the discussion of this topic in the House of Commons during the last sixteen years knew that opinion had been rapidly coming to a head upon it. Since 1880 there had been a great development of opinion in the direction of abolishing the doctrine and we had got to a stage when the majority of hon. Members thought it unjust and ought to be abolished, and in the evidence taken by the Royal Commission on Labour if there was any topic on which the representatives of labour were most agreed it was this. The doctrine of common employment worked unfairly in practice and was indefensible in principle. It put the workman in a worse position than a stranger in the face of accidents for which he would have compensation under ordinary principles of justice. The doctrine led to injustice, because there was no real relationship between the workman injured and the employer. It was said in 1893 that an employer was liable to a stranger, and why should he not be liable for a fellow workman. Did moral justice go further in one case than in the other? In morals there was no distinction except by a legal fiction which had come in and prevented the workman recovering. The doctrine was originated sixty years ago by Lord Abinger, a great judge of highly technical mind. But the courts did not limit the defence of common employment to cases in which men were in the same employment or working at the same spot. The doctrine of common employment was invented by English Judges, but it had not been recognised in the Scotch Courts. As far as he was aware it did not exist in any continental system of jurisprudence, and it had been condemned by many eminent legal authorities. He appealed to the right hon. Gentleman to assist him in getting rid of a doctrine which was founded upon injustice, could not be defended in principle, and was a scandal to our jurisprudence.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN said he must confess he was unable to understand the object of this new clause, still less did he understand the object of the interesting speech which his hon. and learned Friend had made in support of it. His hon. and learned Friend had told the House the whole history of the doctrine of common employment from the beginning, with variations and incursions into Scottish jurisprudence, and although he thought the House was well acquainted with the subject, he should not have complained had it had any bearing whatever on the present Amendment. But the present clause proposed to abolish the doctrine of common employment, not universally—in that case there would have been something in the argument of his hon. and learned Friend—but in any employment to which this Act applied. What was the case in the Bill in regard to any employment to which this Act applied? Why, the doctrine of common employment was abolished in every case of an employment to which this Act applied. ["Hear, hear!"] If an accident occurred through the negligence of a fellow-workman, the doctrine of common employment went to the wall and the workman was entitled to claim damages under the Bill. The only object of this clause must be to give him an alternative process, and to say that in the case, and only in the case in which an accident was due to the negligence of a fellow workman, the injured man was to have not only the opportunities which were given him under this Bill, but "the same right to compensation and remedies against the employer," and so on, as if the accident had occurred through the negligence of a stranger.

Mr. HALDANE said there was one very large class of cases to which this applied; he thought the right hon. Gentleman had recently said that they were 25 per cent. of the total number of accidents. He referred to cases where a man received an injury, but was not disabled for a fortnight.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN asked if the object of this clause was to give an opportunity of having an action for damages in the case of an accident which did not incapacitate him for work for more than a fortnight, and where that accident was due to the negligence of a fellow-workman.

Mr. HALDANE assented.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN said that class of cases certainly would not be anything like 25 per cent. What he had said was that the number of accidents which only incapacitated for less than a fortnight amounted to 25 per cent. of the total number of accidents, but they were not by any means all due to the negligence of fellow-workmen. Now that he understood exactly what the hon. and learned Gentleman said he would say that he must not ask them to overburden this Bill. He certainly did not believe that to do so at that time would be in the interests of the workmen; moreover, it would materially complicate what they desired to simplify, it would raise a new question continually, and would bring within the possibility of litigation all these cases of short accidents, which, after all, were hardly worthy of the attention of the Legislature, and were rather cases to be attended to by the friendly societies. It would raise such a crop of difficulties that they could not possibly undertake to deal with them. He hoped his hon. and learned Friend would show himself to be a friend of the Bill, and would understand the line they had definitely taken. They had gone as far as they thought they ought to, and were not prepared in any such way as this to increase the scope of the Measure. ["Hear, hear!"]

Sir J. JOICEY said the working classes of this country had for some time been anxious to have the doctrine of common employment abolished. He pointed out that this Bill did not apply to all the industries of the country.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN said the hon. Baronet was speaking outside the Amendment.

Sir J. JOICEY said the working classes of this country had for some time been anxious to have the doctrine of common employment abolished. If they had put it to any audience of working men during the last election what was the chief thing they required in connection with employers' liability, he thought the answer would have been abolition of the doctrine of common employment. The Government had done something for the working classes which they had not asked for, but they refused to give them what they demanded by means of their representatives. He was surprised that the Government had not, at all events, made an attempt to deal with this important question. He knew that the right hon. Gentleman only alluded to one class of cases, namely, where the effect of an accident lasted only for two weeks. But this Bill did not extend to the whole of the industries of the country.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN: You are outside the Amendment.

SIR J. JOICEY said the Government were not bringing forward any Amendment to deal with this question. [*Cries of* "Question!"] He wished to take this opportunity of raising the question. He hoped his hon. and learned Friend would not press the matter to a Division, because he did not think that that was an opportune time for dealing with the matter, but he could not but blame the Government for not attempting to carry out some of the pledges which were scattered broadcast at the time of the General Election.

MR. MCKENNA said this Amendment would include amongst those persons whose act or fault the employer was responsible for the fellow-workman of the injured workman. In that sense he submitted it was a valuable Amendment, and a simple way of abolishing the doctrine of common employment. He was afraid the Amendment would not include accidents lasting under 14 days, but, so far as the first part of the Amendment was concerned, he thought the proposal was a very valuable one.

MR. COURTENAY WARNER (Stafford, Lichfield) hoped the Amendment would receive a little more consideration. The answer of the right hon. Gentleman had shown that he had not quite understood it.

MR. HENRY BROADHURST (Leicester) said the essential point in the creed of those engaged in this question was to take any and every opportunity of endeavouring to abolish this ridiculous figment made by lawyers, known as the doctrine of common employment, which had never been enacted by that House.

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY said he was not prepared to defend the doctrine of common employment. [*Opposition cheers.*] This Bill in no way defended that doctrine. Instead of putting the workman on the same level as a stranger, the Bill avowedly put him in a better position. The hon. and learned Gentleman who moved the Amendment suggested that they should make a declaration that it was desirable that common employment should be abolished. That would be inopportune, both in regard to workmen inside the Bill and workmen outside the Bill.

*MR. G. J. BUTCHER (York) said he agreed with everything his hon. and learned Friend the Member for Haddington had said as to the mischievous character of the doctrine of common employment. That doctrine was wrong in principle, and it had worked hardship in practice. But when his hon. and learned Friend threw the blame on the English Judges, he would remind him that the doctrine was an importation from America, and a very bad importation too. He could not, however, support the Amendment, because to the trades to which the Bill applied it would be of little advantage whatever, because the Bill provided compensation for all accidents without regard to the doctrine of common employment, while in regard to those trades to which the Bill did not apply, the Amendment would give no relief whatever from the hardships of the doctrine of common employment. That would be an unsatisfactory and piecemeal way of dealing with a great subject. If his hon. and learned Friend endeavoured by way of a separate Bill to remove the larger and more serious grievance of the working classes outside the Bill, he would give him his hearty support.

MR. G. W. WOLFF (Belfast, E.) said the object of the Bill, which had his complete approval, was to simplify all actions brought by workmen against their employers. The Amendment, if adopted, would tend to the confusion of matters, and, as practically the doctrine of common employment was abolished by the Bill, he hoped the Amendment would be rejected.

Motion made, and Question put, "That the Clause be read a Second time." The House divided:—Ayes, 107; Noes, 169.—(Division List, No. 267.)

*MR. SPEAKER ruled that the other new clauses standing on the Paper—four in number—should properly be moved as Amendments to various clauses of the Bill.

Clause 1,—

LIABILITY OF CERTAIN EMPLOYERS TO WORKMEN FOR INJURIES.

(1.) If in any employment to which this Act applies personal injury by accident arising out of and in the course of the employment is caused to a workman, his employer shall, subject as hereinafter mentioned, be liable to pay compensation in accordance with the first schedule to this Act; such compensation shall be payable whether the injury occasioned arises from the act of the employer or of some person in his employ, or from the act of a stranger thereto. Provided that where such injury shall be occasioned by the act of a stranger under circumstances creating a legal liability to pay damages in respect thereof, the workman may at his option proceed either at law against such person to recover damages or against his employer for compensation under this Act, and if he be compensated under this Act the employer shall be entitled to enforce in the name of the workman all rights of action possessed by him against the person occasioning such injury as aforesaid.

(2.) Provided that:—

(*a*) The employer shall not be liable under this Act in respect of any injury which does not disable the workman for a period of at least two weeks from earning full wages at the work at which he was employed;

(*b*) When it is decided, as hereafter provided, that the injury was caused by the personal negligence or wilful act of the employer or of some person for whose act or default the employer is responsible, nothing in this Act shall affect any civil liability of the employer, but in that case the amount of damages due from such employer may, at the request of the persons claiming compensation, be settled by arbitration in accordance with the second schedule to this Act, or may at the option of such persons be recovered from such employer by the same proceedings as were open to such persons before the commencement of this Act; but the employer shall not be liable to pay compensation both independently of and also under this Act, and shall not be liable to pay compensation independently of this Act except in case of such personal negligence or wilful act;

(*c*) If it is proved that the accident is solely attributable to the serious and wilful misconduct of a workman, any compensation claimed in respect of injury to that workman shall be disallowed.

(3.) If any question arises as to whether the injury was caused by the personal negligence or wilful act of the employer, or of any person for whose act or default the employer is responsible, or whether the injury was caused by accident arising out of and in the course of the employment of the workman injured, or whether the accident was solely attributable to the serious and wilful misconduct of the workman in respect of whose injuries compensation is claimed, or as to the amount or duration of compensation under this Act, or otherwise as to the liability for compensation under this Act, the question, if not settled by agreement, and any question as to whether the employment is one to which this Act applies, shall, subject to the provisions of the first schedule to this Act, be settled by arbitration, in accordance with the second schedule to this Act. Proceedings for the recovery under this Act of compensation for an injury shall not be maintainable unless notice of the accident has been given as soon as practicable after the happening thereof, and the claim for compensation with respect to such accident has been made within six months from the occurrence of the accident causing the injury, or, in case of death, within twelve months from the time of death. Provided always that the want of such notice shall not be a bar to the maintenance of such proceedings if it is found in the proceedings for settling the claim that the employer is not prejudiced in his defence by the absence of such notice, or that such absence was occasioned by mistake or other reasonable cause. Notices shall be served in the manner provided for by the Employers' Liability Act 1880, Section seven.

(4.) If the Registrar of Friendly Societies, after ascertaining the views of the employers and workmen, certifies that any scheme of compensation or insurance for the workmen in any employment is on the whole not less favourable to the workmen and their dependants than the provisions of this Act, the employer may, until the certificate is revoked, contract with any of those workmen that the provisions of the scheme shall be substituted for the provisions of this Act, and thereupon the employer shall be liable only in accordance with the scheme, but, save as aforesaid, this Act shall apply, notwithstanding any contract to the contrary made after the commencement of this Act. No scheme shall be so certified which contains an obligation upon the workmen to join the scheme as a condition of their hiring.

If the funds under any such scheme are not sufficient to meet the compensation payable thereout the employer shall be liable to make good the amount of compensation which would be payable under this Act.

(5.) The Registrar of Friendly Societies shall in every year make a report of his proceedings under this Act, and that report shall be laid before Parliament.

(6.) If any workmen or their representatives shall submit to the said Registrar *primâ facie* evidence that the provisions of any scheme are no longer so favourable to the workman as the provisions of this Act, or that the provisions of such scheme are being violated, or that the same is not being fairly administered by the employers, or that satisfactory reasons exist for revoking the certificate, then he shall examine into the complaint, and, if satisfied that good cause exists for such complaint, shall, unless the cause of complaint is removed, revoke the certificate.

(7.) Whenever a scheme has been certified as aforesaid, it shall be the duty of the employer to answer all inquiries and to furnish all such accounts as may from time to time be required by the Registrar of Friendly Societies.

Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY moved in Sub-section (1) to leave out the words:—

"be liable to pay compensation in accordance with the first schedule to this Act, such compensation shall be payable whether the injury occasioned arises from the act of the employer or of some person in his employ, or from the act of a stranger thereto. Provided that where such injury shall be occasioned by the act of a stranger under circumstances creating a legal liability to pay damages in respect thereof, the workman may at his option proceed either at law against such person to recover damages or against his employer for compensation under this Act, and if he be compensated under this Act the employer shall be entitled to enforce in the name of the workman all rights of action possessed by him against the person occasioning such injury as aforesaid."

He explained that this Amendment was consequential upon the adoption of the clause to which the House had agreed.

Amendment agreed to.

On the return of Mr. Speaker, after the usual interval,

Mr. CRIPPS moved to leave out paragraph (*b*) of Sub-section (2) of Clause 1, and to insert instead thereof the words:—

"(b) An employer shall not be liable to be proceeded against independently of this Act in the case of any injury to which the procedure of this Act applies, but when it is decided by arbitration that any injury has been caused by the serious and wilful misconduct of the employer, or of some person for whose act or default the employer is responsible, nothing in the first schedule to this Act shall limit the amount of compensation payable by the employer."

The hon. and learned Member, in the course of whose remarks an unsuccessful attempt was made to count out the House, said this was a matter in which there could be no difference between the interests of the workman and the employer. The interests of both could only be to ascertain the amount of liability and the speediest and most economical way of avoiding legal expenditure and delay. Now, it was an arguable question whether they should have arbitration procedure, or whether the common law methods would not be better, but clearly they should have one method or the other, and seeing that they had adopted arbitration in the Bill as the proper method of ascertaining the amount payable to the workman, they ought to limit the form of remedy to arbitration and to no other; and that was why he moved the Amendment.

Sir R. REID could not assent to all the words of the Amendment, but the principle of it he entirely agreed with. In his opinion it was one of the most important Amendments in the whole Bill. The acceptance or rejection of it would have more to do with the success of the Bill than almost any other Amendment that could be proposed. There were and must be conflicts in the Bill as between separate interests, as between the employer and the workman, but this was an Amendment which was to the interest of both. He should be very much surprised if they did not join for the purpose of recommending the Government to accept this proposal. According to the present law the workman could bring an action against his employer if he had been guilty of any negligence himself, and that action had to be tried in the High Court. In addition to that the workman had a right of action against his employer by virtue of the Employers' Liability Act. That was in the case where some person for whom the employer was responsible had been guilty of negligence. In that case he must go to the County Court. So that they had already two classes of procedure, and the workman had to choose which he would accept. If he went to the County Court and the Judge said he ought to have gone to the High Court, or if it was the other way, the workman found his whole expense and labour had been thrown away, and he had to commence proceedings anew. That was not a satisfactory state of things, and it was going to be aggravated by this Bill, because they now had a third remedy—the remedy for compensation under the terms of this Bill. The consequence was that when a man had been injured he would have to consider whether he was to go to the County Court, the High Court, or to the compensation arbitration tribunal. If he found himself in any one of these tribunals when he ought to be in another the whole of his expense was thrown away. Was that in the interest of the workman to begin with? It could not be. His chance of recovering damages or compensation might be dependent upon his taking the wrong tribunal. They put this unfortunate workman—an illiterate man, be it remembered—to to whom they wanted to give his remedy with as little of legal technicality as possible, in peril because they had three classes of remedy. Was it to the interest of the employer? He thought the hon. Member for Stroud would agree, not only that the workman should be able to bring his action in the arbitration court, but that the employer should be entitled to compel him to do so. ["Hear, hear!"] He thought it ought to be a reciprocal benefit. This would be a check upon those unscrupulous solicitors who endeavoured to levy blackmail on an employer, because he could force him to go to the arbitration court without involving himself in any expense. The Home Secretary, feeling that there was something in this, had put an Amendment down on the Paper. By that Amendment the Government proposed that when a man brought an action independently of this Act and it turned out that he was entitled only to compensation under the Act, and not to bring an action, that action was not to be dismissed, but the compensation awardable under the Act was to be given in the Court. That substituted the proceedings of the action for the proceedings of the arbitration. The Government saw it was necessary to meet the point, and, instead of meeting it by making arbitration universal, at the option of either party, what they did was practically to give the workman the option of going to law instead of to arbitration. The choice of the House lay between these two things—either they were going to give the workman alone, as the Government proposed by their Amendment, the option of bringing an action or going to arbitration—which was a one-sided affair, and he did not think fair—or they were going to give either the employer or the workman the option to say that they would have the matter settled by arbitration whether it arose at common law, under the Employers' Liability Act, or under this Act. This was a most important question, and he was certain that, if it was fairly explained to the employers, they would see that the principle embodied in this Amendment was to their true interest as well as to that of the workmen.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL thought the hon. and learned Gentleman opposite had somewhat belittled the suggestion which had been made by the Government in order to meet this difficulty, and he certainly attributed a consequence to it which did not exist—that was to say, the possibility of double proceedings. He could not help reminding the House that the great matter which lay at the root of the suggestion of the hon. and learned Member for Dumfries was his wish that all the proceedings should be forced to arbitration, whether they arose at common law or under the Employers' Liability Act. He thought his hon. Friend who moved this Amendment and the hon. and learned Gentleman opposite must have forgotten the Debate which took place in Committee, and the attack made on the Government because they had proposed to refer to arbitration the question of the personal negligence or wilful default of an employer. His hon. Friend and the hon. Gentleman opposite desired to remedy this matter by forcing everything to arbitration. They had been told that which was not the experience of one working lawyer out of this House—that arbitration was a cheaper and more expeditious procedure than the County Court. That was exactly the contrary of all their experience, and they had been pressed from very influential quarters to make the proceeding much more analogous to the proceeding in the County Court, and not to allow this proceeding of arbitration to be so much the order of the day. They had met the wish for a simple procedure by saying that, if a workman did not allege any personal negligence or wilful act or default on the part of the master, he should take his proceedings under the Bill—first before the committee, and then before the arbitrator if necessary. His hon. Friend would admit that in that case there was no necessity to alter the Bill in the way suggested. Then take the case of a workman who thought he had got an action for personal negligence, or wilful act, or default. When the Government proposed that that question should go to arbitration, they were told from all quarters of the House that that ought not to go to arbitration. The hon. Baronet the Member for Wolverhampton protested against the question of a wilful act on the part of the master being dealt with by arbitration. A workman who was going to allege that his master had been guilty of personal negligence would at once see that the measure of damages was not limited to the provision in the Bill; he would be advised that his remedy was to pursue his common law rights, and he would go to the County Court or the superior Court. The Government had endeavoured as far as they could to meet what they understood to be the express wish of the House—that where it became a question of personal negligence or wilful default on the part of the employer it should be decided in open Court with the safeguards which the master now had towards his protection, at the same time making it secure that no hardship should be caused to the workman by being driven from Court to Court to recover the amount of the compensation. The Government had in their judgment adopted the simplest and best way of meeting the difficulty, and the one which would cause the least amount of friction and expense. It would be a benefit to all parties, while at the same time carrying out the wishes expressed by the representatives of employers and workmen.

Mr. J. WILSON (Durham, Mid) said that he and his friends had tried to judge this question from a common-sense standpoint. They had looked upon the Bill as a means to the promotion of peaceful relations between employer and employed. He believed that in every case the avenues to the law should be closed as much as possible, and that access should be given to more peaceful and less costly tribunals. If disputes could only be settled by an appeal to the Law Courts, a feeling of friction resulted injurious both to employers and workmen, deterring them in the future from seeking the methods of conciliation, which it was the interest of employers and workmen to foster. When the Bill was introduced he took the view that there were to be three different modes of procedure:—(1) Where there were committees in the districts who would represent the workmen and employer, then the settlement of disputes should in the first place be placed within the purview of the committees; (2) where committees did not exist then arbitration should be resorted to; (3) where arbitration was not accepted and acted upon then there should be an appeal to the County Court. He did not understand why it should be urged that arbitration cases would be no less costly than an appeal to a Law Court. It was a strange statement to make. He was a member of a workmen's organisation and there were no fewer arbitration cases settled in Durham than at least a hundred every year. They were not very costly, and there was no appeal to law. If they could keep out any suggestion that the Law Courts were the final tribunal they would conduce a great deal towards the formation of those Committees composed of employers and workmen which would settle these questions in the way in which they ought to be settled. It had been said that this Bill was rushed through the House and through Committee; but there had been a change in the views of hon. Members opposite. When the Bill was introduced he did not hear a single employer demur to its introduction. The Second Reading was not challenged by them, and every hon. Gentleman opposite, and especially the capitalists, were willing to accept the principle of the Bill. Since the Committee stage however, every capitalist had done his best to oppose the Bill. He maintained that there should be an appeal first to the committees composed of workmen or employers and then if this was not successful recourse should be had to arbitration. He hoped the House would favour any attempt made in the insertion of a principle which might conduce to that end.

Mr. RENSHAW, as an employer, was strongly in favour of the simplification of procedure under the Bill. He understood that when the Bill was introduced one of the strong features by which it was proposed to recommend it to employers in the House was, that it would avoid litigation. [*Cheers.*] If there was one thing about the Bill—harsh as it was in many respects—about which as an employer he felt strongly, it was this principle, that they were to have one court to go to, and one only. He believed that the provision suggested by the Amendment of the hon. Member for Stroud would really go a very long way to avoid the difficulty and the friction which would be created by the Bill of litigation in some cases and arbitration in other cases. They wanted to be perfectly certain that when they went before the arbitrator he was to have full power to deal with the question before him. As to the wilful misconduct on the part of the employer, he thought it would be difficult for the arbitrator to fix a monetary consideration to be awarded to the individual on the same scale as would be the case at common law. Employers of labour had a right to ask the House to make the Bill as fair to them as they could. One of the best ways of doing that was to adopt the Amendment of the hon. and learned Member for Stroud, inasmuch as under that Amendment all questions would be referred to the arbitrator. He believed that the Amendment would really and truly simplify the procedure, and therefore he strongly supported it.

*MR. JOHN WILSON (Falkirk Burghs) said that as a mine owner and a large employer of labour he desired to support the argument so eloquently advanced by the hon. and learned Member for Dumfries. He was surprised to hear the Attorney General say that he had not heard anything from the employers as to arbitration. An Amendment in favour of arbitration for all cases arising which he put down was ruled out of order by the Chairman of Committees. Employers would have good reason to complain if the Government did not accept the spirit at least of this Amendment. There were many things which pressed hardly on the employer, and were difficult to bear, such as being liable for the acts of strangers, and they were entitled to expect that all cases should be referred to arbitration and that even there should be State insurance. The opinion was universal that all the questions which would arise under the Bill should be referred to arbitration, and he very earnestly wished the Government to accept the Amendment.

MR. ALEXANDER URE (Linlithgow) said the object of the Amendment was to preclude actions at law wherever arbitration could be effectively employed. The Amendment would achieve that object, and he knew of no reason why the House should not accept it. Hon. Members were desirous that the workman should not be deprived of any remedy he had hitherto had, but they were not desirous that that remedy should be obtained at the expense of costly, but by means of a cheap, procedure. Under the Act of 1880, although no doubt a workman was compelled in the first instance to bring his claim in the County Court in England, and in the Sheriff's Court in Scotland, he might at an early stage of the litigation remove his claim into the higher Court, and have it so adjudicated upon by a Judge and jury at great expense in proportion to the amount of damages he ultimately would recover. The reason why the Scotch people had held that the Act of 1880 was a total failure was that the costs had so far exceeded the amount of compensation recovered, and that the friction generated between employer and workman during the course of the litigation did very much to increase the difficulties between capital and labour, which had been greatly felt. In Scotland this Bill had been hailed with delight, because it was believed it would preclude the possibility of large bills of expenses being incurred, and enable compensation to be awarded at the cheapest possible rate. The Amendment of the hon. and learned Member for Stroud would reduce the costs and at the same time preserve the right to compensation. The wish had been expressed in all quarters of the House that compensation should be awarded by the most rapid and inexpensive method, and he was persuaded that if the Attorney General would but accept this he would make the Bill a much better one than it was at present.

MR. PARKER SMITH hoped the Government would favourably consider the views expressed in all quarters of the House in support of the Amendment. The great attraction which the Bill possessed from the point of view of the Scotch people, was the prospect it afforded to getting rid of the extravagant expenses which hitherto had been incurred. In Glasgow, for instance, 115 out of 370 had been carried into the Court of Session. The claim of the Government was that the workman when injured should be able to go past the arbitration and take his case into Court. The workman had simply to allege that the accident was due to the personal negligence or the wilful act of the employer; he had not got to convince anybody at all. Now, without convincing anybody at all, simply on his own allegation that the injury was due to the personal negligence or wilful act of his employer, he would be able to take the case into court. He was sorry to say there was a great number of low-class agents, especially in Scotland, who endeavoured to get hold of a man when he got hurt, and whose desires were not at all to get compensation for him, but simply to run up costs for themselves. See how the scheme of the Government would play into their hands. There would be no longer any reason for the workman to content himself with making a moderate claim against his employer, because under the scheme of the Government he could not be in any worse position by making an unlimited common law claim in respect of the negligence or the wilful act of his employer. He would make that statement, and would go into the Sheriff's Court and thence into the Court of Session without any possibility on the part of the employer of preventing him. He would have a thoroughly expensive action, and even if it turned out that there was not a shadow of foundation for his allegation of negligence or wilful misconduct, the only result would be to run up heavy costs, which would come partly out of the pocket of the employer and partly out of the money which should have gone as compensation into his own pocket. That, he thought, would be regarded as a singularly unfortunate result. In Scotland it had been the great attraction of this Bill that it got rid of these abuses, this power of incurring excessive expenditure. He did not want to labour that too far. He would only say that it had been admitted again and again that it was a great abuse in Scotland. Under the late Government, in the debates on the Employers' Liability Bill, amendments were accepted by the Government and carried without discussion, which would have had practically the result of the Amendment now before the House—which would have made every case go to the Sheriff's Court and to the corresponding court in England, the County Court. That was the view taken by the late House of Commons; it was the view taken by a considerable number of representatitve bodies in Scotland, and by the Miners' Association; it was the view which working men themselves all felt inclined to take. The workmen were no more anxious to get into the hands of the low-class agents than their masters were to see them. He hoped that the Government, who had made this proposal no doubt with a view of meeting a theoretical difficulty without a sufficient sense of the abuse to which it was open, would accept the views expressed so strongly in different parts of the House in favour of arbitration in all cases.

*Mr. WARR (Liverpool, E., Toxteth) did not pretend to speak as an employer of labour, but he did pretend to speak as a lawyer having some practical experience of the effect of litigation between employer and employed. Speaking in that capacity, he did most earnestly hope that Government would neglect no opportunity of ousting the jurisdiction of the Courts between employers and employed, and of substituting for the courts a tribunal of arbitration. The courts were the very worst tribunals for dealing with questions between employer and employed. They were bad for the employer because in every case he went into court with the certainty of having to pay costs even if he won his case; and they were bad for the employed, because if a workman took a case into court and won it, he was thenceforward a marked man. He could see no earthly reason why the issue of the personal negligence or wilful act of the employer should not be decided by arbitration. It seemed to him to be an entirely suitable topic for arbitration.

Mr. WALTON hoped that Her Majesty's Government would have the courage of their convictions. The very limited scope of their proposed Amendment seemed to be overlooked. It was confined entirely to that very small category of cases in which a charge of personal misconduct was made against the employer. He thought the House need not be distressed by any sentimental consideration in favour of an employer who was subject to a charge of that kind. He failed altogether to appreciate the arguments of those who would seek to protect an employer subject to such an allegation from passing before the ordinary tribunals of law. One would imagine, from the employer's own point of view, that he would court public investigation in a case where moral culpability was alleged. ["Hear, hear!"] He hoped the House would dismiss the idea that in every case, without exception, the workman should be compelled to submit to arbitration. The last person to entrust such an issue as that involved in the allegation of negligence or wilful misconduct would be an arbitrator nominated by a County Court judge. A charge might be brought against the owner or manager of a large colliery, himself a professional man, and the issues at stake might be of enormous importance to him. The issues might also be of great importance to the workman, because he might be representing a large number of men who were seeking compensation, and it was essential that such a case should be tried with gravity and deliberation before a public tribunal. There was danger that an arbitrator appointed by the County Court might not command the confidence of either workmen or employer, and the only alternative was that the issues should be submitted to a tribunal in which judge and jury took part, and whose decision would command acceptance by all parties. It was impossible to leave an arbitrator to decide questions of character such as were necessarily involved in cases of alleged wilful misconduct or default either on the part of the employer or of some person of trust to whom he had deputed the management of a large undertaking. He had on the Paper an Amendment that would provide for arbitration at the desire of the parties; but the Amendment now before the House forced it upon both whether they desired it or not. In the first place character was involved; and in the second place they might have a question of heavy moral responsibility, with a possibility of criminal proceedings following. There had been, let them suppose, a great colliery explosion. Some cases were put forward in order to test the responsibility, both civil and criminal, of the owner and manager of the colliery. That issue must, under this Amendment, be tried by an arbitrator, who would thus be put in the position of having to decide on a question of moral responsibility, which was bound to come before the tribunals of his country. The Government, he hoped, would not assent to that.

*SIR A. HICKMAN said they must all agree that in the great majority of cases arbitration was the fittest and best tribunal to try claims under this Bill. But the hon. Gentleman went much farther, and provided that in all cases both parties should be forced to accept arbitration, whether they had confidence in the tribunal or not. Under this Bill claims of a ruinous amount might be made, and questions of character might be raised of the highest importance. There was already a limit to the jurisdiction of the County Court, and a very proper limit, but was this jurisdiction to be extended without any limit at all in cases of workman and employer—and extended not to the County Court as a public tribunal, but to the judge or his nominee sitting *in camera?* Would any reasonable man in his senses consent that a liability which might be absolutely ruinous should perforce be settled by such a tribunal? Moderate and reasonable claims they might be always willing to submit to the shortest and cheapest way of determining them; but when the questions at issue were so enormous and vital as they might be under this Bill, surely the parties ought not to be forced to submit to arbitration. He hoped, therefore, that the Government would not accept the Amendment.

*SIR F. S. POWELL said the Debate was one of great importance. He could not accept the scheme of the right hon. Gentleman. An alternative remedy seemed to him to be a great defect in procedure. The House ought to provide one remedy suitable to the case, and compel its adoption in every instance. It appeared to him that of the two remedies that proposed by the Amendment was far cheaper than the procedure under the scheme of the Government. He thought the Amendment, if adopted, would be of advantage to all concerned.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON should vote for the Amendment, as he was anxious, as far as possible, to substitute arbitration for litigation.

THE LORD ADVOCATE said reference had been made to the abuses which had occurred in Scotland in the working of the Employers' Liability Act. The abuses in Scotland arose from the fact that whereas in England under the Act of 1880 causes were to be initiated in the County Court, and only removed to the Supreme Court on cause shown, it was forgotten that there was in Scotland a section of an Act passed at the beginning of the century, under which all such causes were to be removed without cause shown.

SIR ARTHUR FORWOOD was surprised to hear the hon. Member for Wigan say the question of character was not involved. The matter went far beyond the question of character; it involved the decision by the arbitrator whether an employer had committed manslaughter or not, and in his opinion that was a most unfair thing to do. The workman had nothing to fear under the clause by making that serious charge against the employer, because if he substantiated it, he got unrestricted damages, and if he failed, he could still claim damages under the Bill.

MR. STUART-WORTLEY said that it seemed that some hon. Members went on the idea that arbitration in every case was cheaper than litigation, but such was not the case. If there were one thing more expensive than litigation it was arbitration.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES said they had been told that the object of this Bill was to avoid litigation, but he doubted whether that would be achieved by this Amendment.

Question put, "That the word 'when' stand part of the Bill.—The House divided; Ayes, 150; Noes, 126.

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY moved in paragraph (*b*) to leave out the words "it is decided, as hereafter provided."

MR. PARKER SMITH observed that if these words were left out no *primâ facie* proof would be required that the injury has been caused by the negligence or wilful act of the employer. A mere statement to that effect would be quite sufficient and thereupon the procedure by arbitration could be set aside by the workman.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL explained that if the words were not admitted there would be a kind of double procedure which would be objectionable.

MR. CRIPPS asked whether if these words were struck out it would be possible in every case for a workman to proceed by action, making the allegation of personal negligence a wilful act on the part of the employer. If a workman made that allegation could the whole procedure be by action, the arbitrator being ousted altogether.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: Yes; but in such cases the workman would run the risk of having the costs of an unfounded issue of personal negligence or wilful act found against him by the judge and that would be a serious liability.

Amendment agreed to.

MR. ASQUITH moved in paragraph (*b*) to leave out the word "personal." He said that if the House should adopt his Amendment he should ask it subsequently to have out "wilful" in order to substitute the word "wrongful" and to add after the word "act" the words "or omission." Were the Government, he asked, or were they not, going to give a workman the alternative of enforcing his rights at common law and under statute or of proceeding to obtain compensation under this Bill? He had understood the Colonial Secretary to say in Committee that the intention of the Government was to give workmen a complete and exhaustive option between those two courses. He was apprehensive lest under the clause as it stood the common law and statutory rights of workmen should be very seriously cut down. Under the law as it at present stood, if a workman were injured in the course of his employment and could show it was due to the negligence of the employer, or to some wrongful act or omission by a person for whom, under the Employers' Liability Act of 1880, the employer was responsible, he could recover damages. He understood from the Colonial Secretary that it was intended to preserve that right to the workman in its integrity. But if the words stood in the Bill, two additional cases would have to be considered which, in the present state of the law, did not and could not arise—if it was the negligence of the employer that was alleged, whether it was personal negligence, and if it was the act of a superintendent or foreman for whom, under the Act of 1880, the employer was responsible, whether the negligence was wilful. This would give rise to subtle distinctions entirely novel in their character, and of infinite complexity, both as to law and fact. If they agreed that they would retain to the workman all the rights he at present enjoyed under common law or statute, it was desirable that they should adopt the simplest possible language, and that when they were dealing with common law liability they should use the word "negligence" and where they were dealing with statute law "wrongful act or omission." Was it the intention of the Government to preserve in their full integrity all the rights of the workman? It must be remembered that there were many cases under the existing law, in which workmen by enforcing their legal rights would obtain a larger measure of compensation than under this schedule. If the Government intended to preserve that right, no language should be used which would suggest that it was cut down and modified. To obtain the clear decision of the House that every existing right of the workman, whether by common law or by statute, would be preserved to him, he moved his Amendment.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN said the question raised by his right hon. Friend was an important one, and he would endeavour to give a clear answer. First, the House should bear in mind that they were proceeding on the assumption that this Bill offered to the workmen in the trades with which it dealt exceptional and extraordinary advantages, and the Government believed it was in the interests of the workmen and of simplicity of procedure that in the vast majority of cases—if not in all—they should take advantage of the Act and of no alternative procedure. ["Hear, hear!"] But they endeavoured to meet what they thought was an exceptional case—namely, that there might be an occasion—although they considered it extremely rare—in which there was such gross personal negligence on the part of the employer that the compensation awarded by the Bill would be insufficient, and something in the nature of punitive proceedings ought to be contemplated. That was the case in which they desired to preserve in their full integrity all the rights of the workman. The Government never said they intended to preserve all the present rights of the workman in their full integrity because they substituted something better than their present rights. ["Hear, hear!"] But in cases of moral negligence and liability on the part of employers they had endeavoured to provide that any rights which the workman now possessed he should have at his option. He was not certain that his right hon. Friend the Member for East Fife was right in saying that the workman could obtain larger compensation under the existing law than under this Bill. It was entirely contrary to the experience of his present rights, because the average compensation the workman had received under the existing law was less than the average he was likely to receive under the Bill and according to the scale employed in the Schedule of the Bill. The Government treated as an extremely exceptional case the case of deliberate and peculiar negligence on the part of the employers and for that only they made exception. There should be some reciprocial understanding as to the obligations of workpeople as well as employers. In the case of workpeople the Government had guarded them from exclusion from this Blll except under extraordinary and peculiar circumstances. They had said that only if it were proved that the accident was solely attributable to the serious and wilful misconduct of the workman should compensation in these cases be disallowed. He was not quite certain that it would not be fair to adopt exactly the same words in the case of the employer; but, at all events, he wished to make it perfectly clear that a similar responsibility was to be established. They might not use exactly the same words, but they meant practically the same thing. They meant that an employer was to be guilty in the same sense in which they had supposed a workman to be guilty before he was to be excluded from the provisions of this Bill. Unless better words than those they had adopted could be suggested, he thought they would sufficiently guard the case of the employer. But certainly he could not admit that it ever was their intention, while imposing upon the employer all the obligations of this Bill, at the same time to leave him open in every case to all the claims which at present could be made under the existing law in every case of accident.

SIR R. T. REID said he quite agreed with the right hon. Gentleman that there should be only one form of procedure, but, as regarded the rights affected by this Bill, the speech of the right hon. Gentleman indicated an entirely new departure. They had not heard when this Bill was introduced that this was a Bill for disfranchising as well as enfranchising. They had thought that the Bill was intended to confer a new right on workmen, and not to diminish their existing legal rights. ["Hear, hear!"] The right hon. Gentleman had told them that in return for the immense advantages conferred by this measure—and he admitted they were great advantages—the workman was to be deprived of any other recourse against the employer outside the Bill, except in special cases, which he covered, not inappropriately, by the general phrase moral responsibility or blame attaching to the employer. But by this Bill three years of wages was the *maximum* of compensation that could under any circumstances be granted, or six years part wages.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN said that in the case of incapacity that was not correct. In that case it was seven-and-a-half years.

SIR R. T. REID said half a year would not make much difference to the argument. The point was that in the case of serious injury by reason, not of wilful default, but of negligence, either on the part of the employer himself or of a person for whom he was responsible, a workman was at present entitled to unlimited damages at common law. Was that right now to be reduced to a limit of three or three-and-a-half years' wages? That was certainly not what they had understood, and it altered entirely the character of the Bill. ["Hear, hear!"] Instead of being an unqualified boon, the Bill would be in the nature of a bargain, and he hoped the House would appreciate what they were dividing upon.

MR. W. R. BOUSFIELD (Hackney, N.) said they had had in view the question of the ultimate extension of this principle to all trades, and it had been understood that, while universal compensation might be a good thing, it was also desirable to preserve existing safe-guards against negligence on the part of the employer. He failed to see the importance of the point under discussion except from a legal and technical point of view. The omission of the word "personal" would make scarcely any difference now in the practical view of the Bill. After all, the point in dispute was merely a question of precision of language. In all cases where the employer was liable before, the Bill would leave him liable still.

MR. HALDANE said that, in Committee on the Bill, he had moved an Amendment to secure the object now aimed at. The right hon. Gentleman the Colonial Secretary rose, and, in reply to that Amendment, made a speech which led them all to understand that the intention of the right hon. Gentleman was to preserve to the workmen all their existing rights, and to give them further advantages. But the House had just listened to a speech from the right hon. Gentleman in which all that was changed. They could not help associating that change of attitude on the part of the right hon. Gentleman with the deputation of angry employers, headed by a noble Marquess, which the right hon. Gentleman had recently encountered. The workman was having taken away from him by the Bill rights which he had at the present moment. He believed the right hon. Gentleman, if left to himself, would have brought in a better Measure, but the right hon. Gentleman was in the hands of other people. The result was that the rights of the workmen were being frittered away, and undoubtedly the Bill was a different Bill from what they had gathered it was in Committee.

SIR A. HICKMAN said everyone knew that the law of employers' liability, as it stood, was a complete failure. About three or four times as much money was spent in litigation than the amount of claims recovered, and it would be a bad thing to allow the workmen any longer to be tempted by pettifogging attorneys to throw away the substance of the Bill in favour of the shadow an appeal to the Courts might give him.

MR. CRIPPS said that if the word "personal" were omitted, the liability of the employer would undoubtedly be extended far beyond what was proposed in the sub-section. There were a very large number of cases of accidents in which there was no personal negligence on the part of the employer, and no personal negligence on the part of some person for whose act the employer was responsible, and if the word "personal" was left out, it would undoubtedly result in largely extending the liability which the Bill placed on the employer. There was another point. On the Second Reading of the Bill, he himself had pointed out that one of the corresponding advantages conferred on the employer was that the old rights of the employé were not to be maintained in their full integrity. That question was discussed on both sides of the House, so that it was perfectly understood that the Government Measure did not seek to maintain in their full integrity the old rights of the employés under all conditions. They were assured more than once that the rights were not maintained in their full integrity, but that it was the intention of the Government only to give the full liability as against the employer after the arbitrator had decided that there had been personal negligence. The only Amendment at the present time on that position was that the employer could proceed under the common law liability. The workmen, however, could proceed under the common law liability or under the Employers' Liability Act, without the arbitrator in the first instance, finding that there had been personal negligence or wilful act on his part. So that if any Amendment had been introduced, it had not been an Amendment in favour of the employer or anything that could have been suggested by the deputation the other day, but an Amendment introduced by the Government in favour of assisting procedure when that procedure was initiated by the workman. The alternative Amendment which he suggested having been negatived, the Amendment of the Government was in favour of the simplicity of procedure for the workman.

MR. McKENNA had before him the actual words used in Committee by the Attorney General in introducing the Amendment, containing the words now under discussion. The hon. and learned Gentleman said that—

> "they had adopted the words which were practically those of the Employers' Liability Bill, namely, 'personal negligence or wilful act of the employer or some person for whose act or default the employer was responsible.' They believed they had reserved to the workman by these words every case which would come within the Employers' Liability Act."

There was the statement by the highest legal authority of the Crown in that House that these words were intended to reserve to the workman every right which he had now got under the Employers' Liability Act. Under that construction it must be obvious that the word "personal" could not have the meaning which was now put upon it by the Colonial Secretary, but must be mere verbiage over and above "wilful and wrongful act and default." It could not alter the statutory liability, upon the authority of the Attorney General. If it could not alter the statutory liability, it would not alter the common law liability, and as the word, upon the construction of the hon. and learned Gentleman, was meaningless and did not, on his authority, convey the meaning which the Colonial Secretary had to-night given it, he submitted it would be only reasonable for the House to accept the Amendment of the late Home Secretary.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL remarked that, as what he had said on the Committee stage had been quoted, he would remind the hon. Member that the particular passage to which reference had been made arose upon the question as to the words, "person for whose act or default the employer is responsible," and his observations, if his memory served him aright, were made after the Colonial Secretary and the Home Secretary had both of them pointed out that what they intended to reserve was the right of the workman to sue the employer where the employer had been guilty of personal negligence. He quite agreed that, taken apart, his words would appear to have a wider meaning than they were intended to bear at the time. If the hon. Member would look at the earlier part of the Debate he would find what he was there dealing with was the question as to the words "person for whose act or default the employer is responsible," and which, he said, were taken from the language of the old Employers' Liability Act. If the hon. Member would look at that Liability Act, he would find that the expression "personal" negligence did not occur at all.

MR. McKENNA: The hon. and learned Gentleman in the Debate in Committee spoke after the Home Secretary but before the Colonial Secretary.

SIR J. JOICEY expressed the opinion that while the discussion had been interesting, so far as he had been able to gather it seemed a question between tweedledum and tweedledee. He had had some experience in Northumberland and Durham of the common law, and, so far as he had been able to judge, it was of very little value indeed to the workman. If he were to mention the sums which had been obtained by the workmen under the existing law he thought the House would be somewhat surprised. So far as he was concerned, he did not care whether the Government accepted or refused the Amendment, as he was satisfied it would make very little difference to the workmen of the country. It was of such trifling value that his own inclination would be to accept it and give the workman the advantage of the present law.

Question put, "That the word 'personal' stand part of the Bill:"

The House divided:—Ayes 209; Noes, 123.—(Division List, No. 269).

Amendment proposed in paragraph (*b*) to leave out the words—

"case the amount of damages due from such employer may, at the request of the persons claiming compensation, be settled by arbitration in accordance with the Second Schedule to this Act, or may at the option of such persons be recovered from such employer by the same"

and to insert the words "the workman may at his option either claim compensation under this Act, or take"—(*Sir Matthew White Ridley.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment made in paragraph (*b*) to leave out the words "such persons," and to insert the word "him."

The Attorney General.

MR. WALTON moved, in paragraph (*b*) after the words "commencement of this Act," to insert the words,—

"Provided that when the workman claims compensation under this Act alleging that the injury was occasioned by such personal negligence or wilful act as aforesaid, the employer may elect to have the said claim determined by a jury, and the same shall thereupon be transferred to the High Court and tried accordingly."

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL said, that under no circumstances could the Government accept this Amendment. It had apparently been framed as an Amendment to the Bill as originally introduced, but, however that might be, it would give a privilege to the employer in that particular case which would encourage litigation, and so defeat the intention of the Bill.

Question, "That those words be there inserted," put, and negatived.

MR. RENSHAW moved, in paragraph (*b*) to leave out the words "pay compensation," and to insert the words "be proceeded against."

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL pointed out, that before any Question of arbitration or County Court comes in, there was the Committee of employers and employed. It seemed quite possible that some proceeding of that sort must be taken, which would be excluded by the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY moved, in paragraph (*b*), after the word "compensation" to insert the words "for injury to workman by accident."

Amendment agreed to.

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY moved, in paragraph (*b*) after the word "pay," to insert the word "such."

Amendment agreed to.

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY moved at the end of paragraph (*b*) to insert:—

"If an action is brought to recover damages independently of this Act for injury caused by any accident, and it is determined in such action that the injury is one for which compensation ought to have been claimed under this Act, the action shall not be dismissed, but the damages recovered from the employer shall not exceed the compensation payable under this Act."

Mr. McKENNA suggested that instead of the word "ought," the Home Secretary should insert the words "could only." The word "ought" was, he submitted, ambiguous.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL was understood to say that the proposed substitution was not necessary.

Mr. GEDGE thought the clause as it stood was likely to lead to a good deal of litigation. There were members of his profession who were not very respectable—they had been called "pettifogging attorneys"—and who looked out for a number of actions of this kind. They would go to a workman who had been injured and induce him to bring an action, instead of taking the cheaper and more convenient way of going to arbitration, and, as he understood, he would be certain to get his costs. If he were wrong he should be glad to hear from the Attorney General that that was so.

Sir A. FORWOOD rose to move his Amendment to the Home Secretary's proposed Amendment.

*Mr. SPEAKER: It appears to me that this is not strictly an Amendment to the Amendment of the right hon. Gentleman the Home Secretary. It can be moved as an Amendment after that Amendment has been carried.

Mr. ALFRED LYTTELTON (Warwick and Leamington) said he agreed with his hon. and learned Friend the Member for Walsall that if this Amendment were inserted the invariable effect would be that the workman under the guidance of a "pettifogging attorney" would proceed to a very heavy claim, and that unless there were some penalty provided against his doing so in the way of costs the effect would be that in each case the more serious claim would be preferred. The practical result would be that arbitration which it was the object of the Bill to attain would be ousted.

Mr. CRIPPS suggested that the Attorney General should put in a specific provision that, if an action were not on the basis of wilful misconduct and no misconduct were found to exist, the actions being dismissed, no costs should be given. There would then be a safeguard which would preserve the procedure of arbitration.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL said he would point out in the first place that this particular amendment was absolutely necessary. It was consequential upon what they had passed. They had decided that a workman should be allowed to recover his Act Compensation, if he might so say, in an action which he had brought alleging that the employer was guilty of wilful misconduct. Therefore, these words must go in, but he had already pointed out that in his judgment the proper safeguard would be a discretion as to costs. They thought any reasonable Judge who found that an unfounded action was brought by an employer being found guilty of wilful misconduct would give costs against the plaintiff. If, when they came to the question of costs it were thought that the provision was not sufficient, they could easily insert words to that effect.

Mr. GIBSON BOWLES said this clause, as now proposed, did not regard an action brought in case of negligence on the part of the employer. It distinctly contemplated an action which did not apply to that, but which arose out of an accident which ought to have been compensated under this Act. This clause proposed that the action should go on, but that it should be limited in the amount of compensation. The object of the Bill was to avoid litigation, but here the House was being brought back from the arbitrator to litigation once again. Where they found a man who refused to take the method which the Bill provided, it was the business of those who believed in the principle of the Bill not to protect him and to maintain him in his refusal, but to turn him back to the arbitrator. He could conceive nothing more calculated to lead the eminent solicitor and the still more eminent counsel to advise an unfortunate workman not to proceed with arbitration but to go to the High Court.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN said that apparently the hon. Member had not been present when the matter was discussed before in Committee, and when by the practically universal assent of the House an Amendment of this kind was claimed and asked for. Under the Bill they gave to the workman an option in certain circumstances to proceed by a different method than that given in the Bill. Originally the Bill provided that if the man made a mistake and selected the wrong procedure, then he should be thrown back to the other procedure, and have his remedy in that way. To this it was objected on both sides of the House that it would be unfair to the employer and the workman because in the case of mistake both would be subjected to the system of trying two actions, one after the other, first an action in the High Court and next arbitration. A desire was generally expressed that if a work-made made a mistake it should not prevent him from getting a decision. Accordingly if the man went to the Court, and the Court found that there had been a mistake, the Court had to deal with the point as if a Court of Arbitration were acting under the Bill. In that way litigation and expense would be saved.

Mr. PARKER SMITH said that the difficulty that danger of law agents getting hold of men and pressing them to run their claim were very real obstacles indeed. Costs would not terrify a man who had nothing to lose. Agents would take up the work on speculation, and he did not like the system of using the compensation given under the Bill to satisfy the claims of the people who were fighting out the case in court.

Colonel DENNY wanted the Government to say how they would treat the Amendment of the right hon. Baronet the Member for the Ormskirk Division of Lancashire.

Mr. CHARLES SEELY (Lincoln) said he could not recall the actual promise made by the Government to insert this Amendment. It was not altogether wise that a workman should be entitled to bring an action against his employer alleging personal negligence on the part of the employer, and yet should suffer nothing in the event of failure. If an action were dismissed as wrong, there should be some penalty imposed on the workman for having brought it. This would be met to a certain extent by the Government accepting the Amendment of the right hon. Baronet next on the Paper, and the Government might now give some indication of the view they took of the Amendment.

Mr. Chamberlain.

*Mr. SPEAKER: It would not be in order to open a discussion on that Amendment upon the Amendment now before the House.

Amendment agreed to.

Sir ARTHUR FORWOOD (Lancashire, Ormskirk), having given notice of the following Amendment: To add after the words last inserted :—

"Provided that where in any action brought to recover damages independently of this Act for injury caused by accident it is determined that the compensation ought to have been claimed under this Act, the costs incurred in defending such action must be deducted from the amount of compensation so payable."

He said that it was quite clear that unless the employer were protected against the costs which he would incur for actions brought for alleged wilful misconduct on his part every case would be brought into court and nothing would be referred to arbitration. He therefore proposed to insert after the words last inserted :—

"Provided that where in any such action it is determined that the compensation ought to have been claimed under this Act, the costs incurred in defending such action shall be deducted from the amount of compensation so payable."

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN: "Agreed, agreed!"

Mr. ASQUITH said he must call attention to the very serious consequences of the acceptance of this Amendment. The Amendment upon the Paper was altogether unreasonable as it empowered the Court in the exercise of its discretion to deduct the costs from the damages. The power would never be exercised unless the action were unreasonable.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN said that what the Government agreed to was the Amendment as it appeared on the paper.

Mr. ASQUITH said that what had been moved was not the Amendment upon the paper. Were they to understand the word was "shall?"

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN: "May."

*Mr. SPEAKER: Does the right hon. Gentleman accept the alteration?

Sir A. FORWOOD: I prefer the Amendment as I moved it. [*A laugh.*]

MR. CHAMBERLAIN: Perhaps the best way would be to move to amend the Amendment by omitting the word "shall" in order to insert the word "may." [*Laughter.*] I greatly prefer the first Amendment of my right hon. Friend, which I think is perfectly reasonable. It would be improper to insist that in every case, whatever the circumstances may be, the whole of the costs shall be deducted. That might involve considerable hardship.

SIR A. FORWOOD: Then I will agree to "may." [*Laughter.*]

Word "may" substituted for the "shall." Amendment, as thus amended, agreed to.

MR. H. J. TENNANT (Berwickshire) moved to add, after the words last inserted:—

> "Provided that nothing in this Act shall affect the right of any of her Majesty's Inspectors of Factories to recover penalties under Section 82 of 41 and 42 Vict., c. 16, and Acts amending the same, and that the recovery of such penalties shall not be taken into account in estimating compensation under this Act."

He said that the Factory and Workshop Act, 1878, enacted that if any person was killed or suffered bodily injury in consequence of neglect of the occupier to fence machinery, etc., the occupier of the factory should be liable to a fine not exceeding £100, which might be applied by the Secretary of State for the benefit of the injured person or his family, as the Secretary of State might determine. He believed that in the past the factory inspector had instituted proceedings against the occupier of the factory, and had obtained damages, but that when the injured person desired to take proceedings under the Act of 1880 he had been informed he was not able to do so, owing to damages having been already secured under another statute. He could not help thinking the House would agree it would be a great misfortune for a man who had received serious injury, and on whose behalf the Inspector of Factories had obtained a small amount of compensation, to be informed that he could not get compensation under this Bill. In case the Attorney General said that any proceedings under the Factory Acts were not civil proceedings, but criminal, he might state that the Factory and Workshops Act of 1895 alludes to these damages which are called fines in the Act of 1878, and provides that the workman may take the money as compensation.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL said if he caught the statement of the hon. Gentleman aright, the money recovered was to be applied to the benefit of the injured person, it was not to be merely a punishment of the employer, but was to be applied to the benefit of the workman.

MR. TENNANT: It may be.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL said it was perfectly plain that in its integrity the Government could not adopt such a proposal. It would be an alternative method of compensation. Of course it was intended that the compensation provided by the Bill should be a full discharge. ["Hear, hear!"] He confessed he thought the hon. Member was referring to penalties intended to enforce observance of certain provisions of the Act, which would be a very different thing. But it was impossible to sanction any proceedings, civil or criminal, to provide for taking money out of the pocket of the employer which would be additional compensation to that recoverable under the Act.

MR. ASQUITH said it was necessary to be clear as to what the effect of the Bill would be. The primary object of the section, as he had always understood, was to secure by legal provision the observance on the part of the employer of certain enactments. A fine not exceeding £100 was recoverable; but there was a discretionary power vested in the Secretary of State to apply the amount of the fine, in whole or in part, to the benefit of the injured person. He could quite understand the point of the Attorney General, that where that power was exercised it might be right to take into account the money so applied as part of the compensation payable by the employer. He could understand it, but he did not agree with it. He thought that in all such legislation they ought to preserve a distinction between the employer who had neglected his duty and the employer who had not; and where an Act of Parliament required a statutory duty, and imposed a penalty which might or might not be applied for the benefit of the workman, the employer who was shown to be guilty of negligence and incurred the penalty ought not to be entitled to claim the benefit of it as a set-off against the compensation to which the workman was entitled. It was clear that this Act ought not to affect the power of the Inspectors of Factories to make defaulting employers pay these penalties, and he should like to have an assurance from the Attorney General to that effect.

MR. RENSHAW said the words of the Attorney General had left the House in doubt as to how this provision as to penalties would really apply in future where claims for compensation were made under this Bill. He did think that employers of labour in factories were entitled to ask whether or not compensation under the Bill was to be given plus the £100 fine. ["Hear, hear!"] He gathered from the remarks of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for East Fife that he was not quite up to date. He suggested that there should be some punishment for the negligent employer. It seemed to him that they had got beyond all that, for they had made up their minds that the employer was to be punished in any case whether he was negligent or not. They ought to have an assurance, he thought, that the employer was not to be subject to a double charge.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN said he thought if there was any doubt it might be met by an amendment of the Amendment. As framed, the Amendment was certainly in a directly opposite sense to the intention of its mover. The difference at all events was appreciated by his right hon. Friend opposite, who admitted that there might be an argument against double compensation. Certainly the Government felt that argument so strongly that they wished to make it perfectly clear that double compensation was not to be allowed. ["Hear, hear!"] On the other hand they quite agreed with the right hon. Gentleman that nothing in the Bill ought to affect the right of the State Inspectors of Factories to recover penalties for breaches of the law; and if it was necessary he should suggest that they amend the Amendment in this way. Take the Amendment as far as the words—

"Nothing in the Act shall affect the right of the Inspectors of Factories to recover penalties,"

Mr. H. H. Asquith.

and then go on to say—

"if such penalties, or any part thereof are applied for the benefit of any person injured, such amounts shall be taken into account in estimating the compensation."

He moved to amend the proposed Amendment, by leaving out from the word "same," to the end thereof, to add instead thereof the words—

"but if such penalties, or any part thereof, are applied for or to the benefit of any person injured, such amount shall be taken into account in estimating the amount of compensation under this Act."

Debate adjourned till To-morrow.

ISLE OF MAN (CHURCH BUILDING ACTS) BILL [H.L.].

Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a Second time."

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE (Carnarvon Boroughs) complained of the procedure with regard to this Bill, which had already been rejected by a substantial majority of 13. [*Laughter.*] In recent years there was no precedent for the course pursued. The Isle of Man had a Legislature of its own. They knew little of its laws, absolutely nothing, and this Bill was launched without a single word of explanation.

And, it being Midnight, the Debate stood adjourned.

Debate to be resumed To-morrow.

POST OFFICE (SITES) [EXPENSES].

Considered in Committee.

Motion made, and Question again proposed,—

"That it is expedient to authorise the payment, out of moneys to be provided by Parliament, of all sums payable by the Postmaster General under any Act of the present Session to enable Her Majesty's Postmaster General to acquire lands for the public service, and of all expenses incurred in carrying into effect the provisions of such Act."—(*Mr. Hanbury.*)

Question put, and agreed to.

Resolution to be reported To-morrow.

SUPPLY (2ND JULY).

Resolutions reported.

CIVIL SERVICES ESTIMATES, 1897–8.

CLASS I.

1. "That a sum, not exceeding £137,137, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1898, for the erection, repairs, and maintenance of public buildings in Ireland, for the maintenance of certain parks and public works, and for drainage works on the River Shannon."

2. "That a sum, not exceeding £19,928, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1898, for payments under 'The Tramways and Public Companies (Ireland) Act 1883,' and the Light Railways (Ireland) Acts 1889 and 1893."

Resolutions agreed to.

CLASS IV.

3. "That a sum, not exceeding £630,291, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1898, for the expenses of the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland."

MR. JOHN DILLON (Mayo, E.), called attention to the question of the teaching of Irish in the primary schools of Ireland. It was, he contended, in a very unsatisfactory and unfair condition. It was impossible properly to instruct children in the schools in the Galway and other Irish speaking districts unless the teachers themselves spoke Irish and used to the children the language they themselves heard used in their own homes. Instruction ought to be conveyed to the children in their native tongue and he maintained the intellect of these children was crippled and their instruction interfered with by the fact that an attempt was made to teach them in what was to them an absolutely foreign tongue. In the districts of Clare, Galway, Mayo, Donegal, and other counties, many people only spoke the Irish language, the rest of the population being bilingual. He maintained that in all districts where the majority or a large proportion of the school children came from homes where Irish was spoken, the teachers ought to be Irish-speaking teachers, so that they should be required to explain the English language and that other information which they had to impart through the medium of the tongue which was familiar to the children. The Chief Secretary seemed to have a prejudice against the ancient tongue of Ireland. He had never been in favour of depriving the people of Ireland of the opportunity of acquiring the English tongue. To deprive them of the opportunity would be a great mistake, as it was to their advantage to know English. But in the west of Ireland, there were over half-a-million people whose education was injuriously affected by the fact that they were treated as if they were an English-speaking people. He wanted them to be taught English through the medium of their native tongue. It was a disgrace to the so-called national system of education in Ireland, that more teachers were not Irish-speaking, and he trusted that the Chief Secretary would lay aside his apparent prejudice and instruct the Education Board to adopt what the Irish Members believed to be the true principles of education.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE (Kerry, W.) suggested that statistics should be obtained of the number of Irish-speaking children in primary schools. It would be interesting and important to know year by year whether the number of children who spoke Irish was increasing or diminishing. Statistics should also be presented annually of the number of teachers who spoke Irish, so that they might see whether there was any increase or diminution. There was a great anxiety in Ireland to preserve the Irish language, which should be made part of the classical education of the people.

MR. J. G. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty) expressed sympathy with the Members from Ireland who had spoken. Children in Ireland and in the Highlands should be taught English through their mother tongue—Irish or Gaelic. Teachers who spoke Irish or Gaelic should be appointed by the Education Department.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central) assured the hon. Member for East Mayo that he had no prejudice against the teaching of Irish. He once tried to learn it himself, but he found it so difficult that he was obliged to give up the task. As to the use of Irish as the native language in Ireland, the hon.

Member seemed to hold that it would be a good thing if the proportion of Irish-speaking teachers in Ireland were increased as compared with English-speaking teachers.

Mr. DILLON said all he wanted was that there should be no attempt to stamp out the language.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR said if the hon. Member meant that where the children spoke Irish they should be taught English by means of their own language, he did not altogether differ from him. It might be a good thing that there should be a certain proportion of teachers able to speak the Irish language in districts where it was needed. He was afraid, however, that they could not make a hard-and-fast rule as the capacity of such teachers in other directions was likely to be inferior. He would remind the hon. Member that it was a question also for the decision of the National Commissioners. He had no desire to crush out the knowledge of the Irish tongue in those parts of Ireland where it was spoken.

Resolution agreed to.

4. "That a sum, not exceeding £625, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1898, for the expenses of the Office of the Commissioners for managing certain School Endowments in Ireland."

5. "That a sum, not exceeding £1,697, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1898, for the salaries and expenses of the National Gallery of Ireland, including a grant in aid for the purchase of Pictures."

Class II.

6. "That a sum, not exceeding £3,880, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1898, for the salaries and expenses of the Public Record Office in Ireland, and of the Keeper of State Papers in Dublin."

Resolutions agreed to.

SUPPLY [18th JUNE] REPORT.

Order read for further consideration of postponed Resolution:—

4. "That a sum, not exceeding £19,923, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1898, for the salaries and other expenses of temporary Commissions and Committees including Special Inquiries."

*Mr. ROBERT PIERPOINT (Warrington) asked that the decision which had been come to in regard to the Historical Manuscripts Commission might be reconsidered. These manuscripts had been published now for 27 years, and the total cost of the parts issued during that period to anyone who bought them was only £9 0s. 0½d. There had been on an average 400 parts issued gratis to Members. Therefore during the 27 years the total amount of money that would have been paid by the Members if they had been charged for those parts was £3,600, so that the amount of money saved to the Members of the House out of the Public Funds in this respect was £133 6s. 8d. a year. That was a very small sum when they were dealing with the works of the Commission, which were of very great interest both to Members of the House and to the country at large, and it was a great pity that either the Treasury or the Commission should come to the decision to deprive Members of having these volumes issued to them for nothing. Ever since he had been a Member of the House he had obtained those volumes, but like many others he had handed them over to the Public Library in his constituency. This deprivation would have the effect of leaving many incomplete issues of the Historical Manuscrips Commission.

Mr. HANBURY said he desired to explain what was really the position in regard to this first. His hon. Friend seemed to imply that Members had been deprived of a right, and that that was due to the parsimony of the Treasury. In both of these ideas the hon. Gentleman was mistaken. Many complaints had been received that under the present system those Reports were issued slowly and irregularly, and that they were not issued as a series with other public documents from the Record Office. He placed the matter before the Master of the Rolls, asking him whether the time had not arrived for turning the work of what was a temporary Commission over to some permanent public department, so that these documents might issue at the same rate as all other public documents. He received a reply from the Royal Commission, saying there were certain objections to handing over this work to a permanent Department, and they made the counter proposal that the Commission should continue to act, but that the papers should be issued in a somewhat different form; the work being kept in the hands of the Royal Commissioners themselves, a change being made in the mode of publication. Every one of the Commissioners was consulted as to the best form in which to issue the publications in future, and the unanimous decision was arrived at that it would be in every way an advantage to bring out as independent publications what were now called appendices to the successive Reports of the Commission, and so to avoid delay in their presentation to Parliament. The Commissioners who arrived at that unanimous Report were first of all gentlemen of great political influence, and persons whose acquaintance with literature and history gave them special importance. The President of the Commission was the Master of the Rolls, and the other Commissioners included Lord Salisbury, Lord Rosebery, Lord Edmond Petty-Fitzmaurice, Bishop Stubbs of Oxford, the Bishop of Limerick, Lord Acton, and Sir H. Maxwell Lyte. He thought it was quite clear that even over an ordinary Royal Commission the Treasury had got very little control indeed. They were gentlemen who undertook work of this kind gratuitously, and it was quite out of the power of the Treasury, and to a certain extent, even out of the power of that House, to dictate what course should be adopted by a Royal Commission. So far from any right of that House being infringed, the view the Commissioners took was this: up to the present they had been under the idea that this work would come to an end sooner than it was likely to come to an end. They had issued these very valuable historical documents in the shape of appendices to their Reports, and as long as they were issued in that form undoubtedly the House of Commons and the House of Lords—who were entitled to the Reports of Royal Commissions—were entitled to have these documents issued to them gratis. But the Commissioners had decided, chiefly for reasons of convenience, and in order to get these Reports out in a more regular and orderly series, to issue them as independent documents. They had no doubt as to their right to do this, according to the opinion of a Judge like the Master of the Rolls. This, therefore, was not an attack of a parsimonious Treasury upon the rights of the House; if anything it was rather an attack on the rights of a Royal Commission, very influential and capable, who were perfectly unanimous in the step they proposed to take. These papers, after all, had nothing of the ordinary Parliamentary paper about them. They were very valuable historical documents, but they had nothing to do with the ordinary work of Parliament, they were of no advantage to Members for their work in the House, and the Committee had properly decided that since it was only by an accident that these documents had hitherto been published in the present shape, they should go back to the more regular procedure in cases of this kind.

MR. SERJEANT HEMPHILL (Tyrone, N.) submitted that it was quite immaterial whether these Reports were called appendices to the Royal Commission or separate publications. The right hon. Gentleman's argument was rather a quibble. The Members of this House were entitled to be furnished with copies of the Report of any Royal Commission issued, and these publications were nothing but a portion of that Report.

MR. HANBURY said that was not so. They would continue to issue their Reports as hitherto, but they were under no obligation to issue these appendices to Parliament; they could be treated as entirely independent documents.

MR. SERJEANT HEMPHILL contended that the Report would be an imperfect document unless the appendices were included. He thought it would be a very great public loss if the right hon. Gentleman persisted in his determination; it was not so much the price that one would have to pay, but that the documents would escape notice and be buried in oblivion.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE said that the Financial Secretary to the Treasury complained of the irregularity that was permitted in the giving of copies of the Reports of the Historical Manuscripts Commission to Members gratis, but the irregularity had gone on now for some 27 years, and was anyone injured by it? The Financial Secretary said that the new proposal would lead to uniformity, but the House would remember that the Reports of this Commission were already issued in two sizes, the first issues being issued in a larger size than the remainder, which was already an inconvenience to librarians. If a change were now made, and the publication brought out in a new and third shape, the inconvenience would be greater still. In this matter there were two points of view to be considered. It was all very well for the Commissioners to give their views of the situation, but seeing that the House supplied the money for publication, Members had fair ground to claim that their wishes should be consulted. The Reports of these historical manuscripts were unquestionably the most interesting of all Parliamentary Papers issued, and he was sorry to have to confess they were the only Parliamentary Papers he ever read. It was a monstrous thing that after their work in the service of the country, Members should be deprived of this small perquisite. The Secretary to the Treasury had made but a half-hearted defence of the Commission. If the right hon. Gentleman had read these Reports he would take the view expressed, that the Commission had not acted quite fairly. He was not a sufficiently experienced Parliamentarian to know, but it seemed to him there was something approaching to a breach of privilege in this attempt to withhold these publications from Members. For a long time Members had had them, and under the arrangement, the Commission had carried on their work. He did not think the Commission, however learned and influential, were competent to interfere with arrangements deliberately made by Parliament and carried out for a long series of years. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would reconsider the question. He would say nothing about the parsimony of the Treasury, it remained to be seen what the Treasury would do, but he pointed out, that however unimportant and obscure, each Member had a means of avenging himself on the Treasury. They had an easy means of showing their sense of this proceeding and making it an extremely expensive one for the Treasury. Every Member of the House was entitled to two copies of Reports during the time he remained a Member of the House, hitherto he himself had taken only one copy, but if this proposal was carried out he intended to apply for another copy, and he was quite satisfied that other Members would do the same. There were a number of Members who had not realised the importance and value of these Reports, but who were entitled to two copies, and would immediately apply for them, and the full assertion of their rights would materially add to the expense to be borne by the Treasury. They could give the Treasury trouble in another matter. They were entitled to all Parliamentary Papers, and what he proposed to do, if this project was carried out, was to apply for every Parliamentary Paper published. Probably other Members would do the same thing, and in the end it might possibly be found that the gain to the Treasury had not been very great.

Mr. HANBURY said this was certainly not a matter in which the Treasury was deeply concerned. It was only a very few pounds a year—[*cheers*]—and there was evidently a feeling on both sides of the House that the present arrangement should continue. ["Hear, hear!"] He had, as he had said, no control over the Commissioners, and had really no right to suggest to them what should be done in the way of issuing their own publications; but still he thought he should be justified, after hearing the Debate, in representing to them his view with regard to the feeling in the House that the present system might be allowed to go on. [*Cheers.*]

Mr. WEIR asked the Financial Secretary to the Treasury if he could state the result of inquiries he had promised to make into the expenses of the Colonisation Board?

Mr. HANBURY said he had made inquiries and had tried to get some independent information with regard to this Vote. Although this year it was absolutely necessary to place these sums on the Estimates, he hoped that by next year the Vote would be considerably reduced, if not done away with altogether. ["Hear, hear!"]

Resolution agreed to.

FINANCE BILL.

Read the Third time, and passed.

FOREIGN PRISON-MADE GOODS BILL.

Committee deferred till To-morrow.

METROPOLITAN WATER COMPANIES BILL.

Committee deferred till Thursday.

LAW OF EVIDENCE (CRIMINAL CASES) BILL.

Committee deferred till Thursday.

LAND TRANSFER [CONSOLIDATED FUND].

Considered in Committee.

Motion made, and Question proposed,

"That it is expedient to authorise the payment, out of the Consolidated Fund, of any deficiency in the Insurance Fund which may be established under any Act of the present Session to establish a Real Representative and to amend the Land Transfer Act 1875."—(*The Attorney General.*)

Committee report Progress; to sit again To-morrow.

SUPPLY.

Committee deferred till Wednesday.

WAYS AND MEANS.

Committee deferred till Wednesday.

BICYCLES (IRELAND) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Thursday.

BURIAL GROUNDS LOANS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Adjourned Debate on Second Reading [11th May] further adjourned till Thursday.

STIPENDIARY MAGISTRATES' JURISDICTION (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Monday next.

POOR LAW BILL.

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

DANGEROUS PERFORMANCES BILL.

Committee deferred till Thursday.

SCHOOL BOARDS' EXPENSES BILL.

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

PUBLIC HEALTH (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Consideration, as amended (by the Standing Committee), deferred till Thursday.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Committee deferred till Thursday.

CONGESTED DISTRICTS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Consideration, as amended, deferred till Thursday.

SUPREME COURT OF JUDICATURE (IRELAND) ACT (1877) AMENDMENT BILL.

Considered in Committee. Clause 1.

Committee report Progress; to sit again upon Monday next.

EDUCATIONAL ENDOWMENTS (IRELAND) ACT (1885) AMENDMENT BILL.

Committee deferred till Thursday.

ARCHDEACONRY OF LONDON (ADDITIONAL ENDOWMENTS) BILL.

Committee deferred till To-morrow.

STEAM ENGINES AND BOILERS (PERSONS IN CHARGE) BILL.

Adjourned Debate on Motion for Committal to Standing Committee on Trade, Etc. [17th February] further adjourned till Thursday.

SOLICITORS (MAGISTRACY) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Monday next.

TITHE REDEMPTION BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Thursday.

POLICE PENSIONS AND SERVICE BILL.

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

POLICE APPOINTMENT AND PROMOTION BILL.

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

YORKSHIRE CORONERS BILL.

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

PARISH COUNCILS (SCOTLAND) (CASUAL VACANCIES) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Thursday.

WORKING MEN'S DWELLINGS BILL [H.L.].

Second Reading deferred till Thursday.

JURORS' EXPENSES BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Wednesday.

RATING OF MACHINERY SUSPENSORY BILL.

Order for Second Reading Read, and discharged; Bill withdrawn.

IDIOTS INSTITUTIONS (EXEMPTION FROM RATES) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Wednesday 14th July.

EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ACT (1880) AMENDMENT BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Monday next.

RAILWAY RETURN TICKETS BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Wednesday.

PARISH REGISTERS BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Wednesday.

LICENSING (SCOTLAND) ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD (IRELAND) (COMPULSORY PURCHASE POWERS) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION BILL [H.L.].

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

LICENSING EXEMPTION (HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

CROFTERS' HOLDINGS (SCOTLAND) ACT (1886) AMENDMENT BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Wednesday 21st July.

SCHOOL BOARD ELECTORATE (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Wednesday 21st July.

And, it being One of the clock, Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House without Question put.

House Adjourned at One o'Clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Tuesday, 6th July 1897.

NEW PEER.

John Savile Lumley Baron Savile having succeeded to the title on the death of John Baron Savile by virtue of a special remainder in a patent dated 27th October 1889—Was (in the usual manner) introduced.

EXTRAORDINARY TITHE BILL.

Reported from the Standing Committee without Amendment, and to be Read 3ª on Thursday next.

MERCHANT SHIPPING (UNDERMANNING) BILL.

Reported from the Standing Committee without Amendment.

MARKET GARDENERS' COMPENSATION (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Reported from the Standing Committee without Amendment, and to be Read 3ª on Thursday next.

FLOODS PREVENTION BILL [H.L.].

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

LORD THRING moved "That the Bill be now Read a Second time." He said that the Bill was similar to one which passed the House last year after full consideration, and he had intended to make the Motion without troubling their Lordships with any observations, but he presumed, after notice of opposition had been given by Lord Heneage, it was necessary for him to give a short explanation. The object of the Measure was simply to enable County Councils to give their aid in checking floods where there was no other local authority having power in the matter. It was unnecessary to dilate on the dangers and disasters caused by floods, and their Lordships were well aware that over the greater part of the country the measures for controlling floods were under the authority of conservators, elective boards, and commissioners. The Bill did not in the least affect the jurisdiction of these bodies, or interfere with their authority in any way. There were, however, large districts, and especially in the Midlands, where there was no authority for checking floods, and often in those districts, the removal of a very small obstruction, the clearance of an arterial stream, at a small expense would be sufficient to prevent a flood, and the Bill was to enable a County Council to do this work. There was no compulsion in the Bill, there was no power conferred to take land compulsorily, the Council would have no power to rate a subordinate district except with consent. Simply, the Bill gave power to a council, if it should be thought for the benefit of any part of the county, to pay for the removal of the obstruction. He could not conceive any Bill less objectionable. Last year the noble Marquess at the head of the Government said the Bill had not sufficient safeguards, and thereupon clauses were inserted which satisfied the noble Lord, and the Bill passed the Standing Committee. Of course it would be idle to withstand noble Lords opposite if they wished to throw out the Bill, or to attempt to pass the Bill against opposition in the Commons; but every single clause to which exception was taken last year had been eliminated or amended to remove opposition. The Bill was approved by the Local Government Board, and he had not the remotest notion why it was objected to now. It was impossible for him to forestall the noble Lord's objections, and he could hardly conjecture them.

LORD HENEAGE said he objected to this Bill on three grounds. He objected to it, first of all, because it was inequitable. No attempt had been made to put any real safeguards in the Bill or any equitable clauses for the advantage of the uplands and midlands who were to pay for the prevention of floods in the lowlands. He objected to it, in the second place, because of the powers given to

County Councils. He was as strong an advocate of local government as any Member of their Lordships' House, but he had always deprecated sending controversial questions to be managed by County Councils, and no single agricultural question was more controversial than the one dealt with in the Bill. His third objection was that it was brought in as a private Member's Bill in the middle of July instead of being brought in, as a question of this kind should be brought in, as a Government Measure at the beginning of the Session, when the Bill could be thoroughly canvassed and examined into by chambers of agriculture and different County Councils. The Bill was entirely in opposition to the recommendations of any Committee which had ever sat. There was no difference made in the payments for anything done between the midlands and the lowlands and the uplands, although it must be perfectly clear that the only people who could possibly benefit under the Bill were those who resided in the lowlands, while those who would suffer from having their water-courses interfered with must be those in the uplands and midlands. Under this Bill there was not a single water-course, not a single supply of water, not a single storage of water that could not be interfered with by the inspectors of a County Council at their pleasure, and he did not think that that sort of power ought to be given. They could enter upon the land at any time on a week's notice to the occupier. No notice whatever need be given to the landlord. A landlord might have been at great expense in putting up a dam to provide water for one of his farms, but he might find the very next year, if there was a drought, that that water supply had been tapped and taken away, and then he would have to pay his share of the rates in having that damage done to him. Nothing could be wider than the definition of a water course. It not only included a river and canal, but any inland navigation, steam, drain, culvert, outfall, and passage under or over or through which water passed. So that there was not a single pipe which might be laid down by any of their Lordships to bring water, in case of drought, to any of the farms or villages on their estate which might not be rendered entirely useless or tapped under the clauses of the Bill.

Why were they to have this legislation entirely for one class of land? It was quite true that occasionally floods did a great deal of damage to the lowlands, but it was equally true that drought did a great deal more damage to the uplands and to the midlands, and if they were not to be in a position to store their water, if they were not to be in a position to take advantage of good years of rain, then he was afraid that a good deal of the uplands would go out of cultivation. In the case of the lowlands, if disaster from floods fell upon them one year, they gained great advantage in the years afterwards, owing to the very luxuriant crops which followed the floods. It was recommended, he believed, by one of the Committees of their Lordships' House that if a Bill of this kind was to be proposed, some equitable provisions ought to be taken on behalf of the uplands and midlands. It was said that something ought to be done to enable water to be stored in case of dry years, and it was particularly asked that there should be a differentiation between the rates that would be paid by the uplands and midlands and those paid by the lowlands. That was the line taken in the Bill of 1882, which was introduced by the Government of that day, and though in other respects that Bill was almost as objectionable as the present, it was equitable on that point. He asked their Lordships to consider whether it was wise to adopt the principle of a Bill which could not, at this period of the Session, really go much further, and to tie their hands by such a course, or whether it would not be much better to reject the Bill on the Second Reading and allow it to be brought in, if it was a good and necessary Bill, by the responsible Government next year. He begged to move to leave out the word "now," and to add at the end of the Motion "this day three months."

Lord HERSCHELL said he did not quite know what the noble Lord meant by the House adopting the principle of the Bill. Their Lordships' House had already done that.

Lord HENEAGE: By accident.

Lord HERSCHELL said he did not know what the noble Lord meant by that. The Bill was largely discussed on the Second Reading; certain criticisms were made by the noble Marquess opposite. Amendments were introduced with a view to meet those criticisms, and ultimately the Bill passed by common consent. There might be grounds for amending the Bill, but that was a different thing from rejecting it.

THE PRIME MINISTER (The MARQUESS of SALISBURY): I do not think the Amendments that were made were entirely satisfactory for disposing of all the criticisms advanced on the Bill. The objection to the Bill is that it is too crude a performance for dealing with so great a subject. The powers are given to the County Council without any limit or selection whatever. They could walk into your front garden and they could take your fishpond and they could make what they pleased of it, and if they could establish that it was your duty to keep your fish pond clean they could charge you with the expense. Certainly they could do so with any ditch on your property—["hear, hear!"]—any river, any weir, or any dam, the definition is of such extreme latitude and there is no restraint on the action of the County Council. Now, I think that in great matters you can very fairly trust, with tolerably complete confidence, the action of these local bodies. Where they require to be watched is in small matters, because small matters fall into the hands of some small permanent official who does exactly what he likes. Therefore, I look with considerable apprehension to the power that is given to these County Councils to meddle with any bit of land that happens to have a bit of water upon it, without any restraint or guidance or limit whatever. I do not say that I could improvise a Bill to meet the case satisfactorily. I consider the matter is one of very considerable difficulty. I should like to see a broader and more careful investigation of the whole subject. If I may say so without offence, I think that this Bill is the pastime of some journey. As he was going by railway the noble Lord put down what had occurred to him and all the watercourses upon which his eye rested—[*laughter*]—just as we know that the division of our New Testament was entirely done by a bookseller who happened to be going from Paris to Lyons. [*Laughter.*] I think some such journey as that must be the explanation of the action of the noble Lord. [*Laughter.*] It is the imperfection of the Measure of which I complain. I think the consideration the noble Lord has put before us, that the Bill has previously passed the Second Reading, is one of considerable force, and, if he pressed it now, being a man of great authority, I should not resist the Second Reading. But I confess that, in the present state, I cannot look forward to doing anything to put the Bill upon the Statute Book. It is far too rash and headstrong, and speaks too much of the unrestrained passion of youth—[*loud laughter*]—for me to venture to accede to the wish of the noble Lord. At the same time, I wish to pay every homage to the desire of the noble Lord to remedy what is undoubtedly a position of danger, but I think it requires to be done somewhat more liberally.

THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY: It is unfortunate that this general objection was not taken last year, because this Bill did not merely pass the Second Reading but passed the House. ["Hear, hear!"] Unquestionably the subject is a very difficult one, but I think there are more safeguards in the Bill than the noble Marquess, perhaps, has observed. For instance, no money can be levied in a district without the consent of the district or the parish council. Again, all rights are saved of persons or bodies of persons who have a right to water. I do not think the Bill is so entirely crude and ill-considered as the noble Marquess thinks. It is extremely desirable that there should be an authority, properly guarded, that can see that all these ordinary water-courses are kept in a proper condition, otherwise great damage is done to the land below and very often to cultivation. I must say I sympathise with my noble Friend, and I think the House may, at all events, give the Bill a Second Reading without binding itself in the least to all the provisions of the Bill.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR (Lord HALSBURY) said that Sub-section (2) of the Second Section provided that

> "full compensation shall be paid by the County Council to the owner or occupier of any land for any damage unlawfully caused to them or either of them."

Would the noble Lord explain what was meant by "unlawfully caused?"

LORD THRING said that if it was the duty of an owner to take away an obstruction, and he did not take it away, he might not be compensated for any damage. He confessed he was surprised and extremely disappointed by the speech of the Prime Minister. Last year the noble Marquess was good enough to point out that certain savings were wanted. In the Standing Committee those savings were put in, and it was understood the noble Lord was entirely satisfied. As to the speech of Lord Heneage, he was afraid he must contradict every proposition that noble Lord made. The noble Lord said the House had now no time to consider the Measure. Why, it was fully considered last year, it passed through every stage, it went down to the House of Commons, and could not be moved there for want of time. He brought the Bill in now because everybody knew a Measure had no chance in the House of Commons except it was brought in at the end of a Session. The noble Lord feared that the Bill would interrupt the storage of water. It would do nothing of the kind. They could not take a single yard or inch of land without the consent of the owner, and how all the evils predicted were to arise from the Bill it was impossible for him to conceive. In former years he drew Bills dealing with the uplands and lowlands, but they failed because they were too big. Now he brought in a small Measure on behalf of the majority of the County Councils, and it was said it ought not to be carried because it was small and crude. The Measure could not by any possibility injure anybody. He was afraid there was no hope whatever of their ever being able to do anything to prevent one of the greatest evils that existed—the recurrence of floods. During the 25 years he was in office, he assisted in drawing Bill after Bill. They all failed, because they were too large. This was to fail because it was too small.

The Earl of NORTHBROOK said he was quite ready to give all credit to Lord Thring for the attention he had paid to the work of the County Councils, but still he hoped the noble Lord would withdraw this Bill. In the first place, there was no reasonable chance of the Bill passing this Session, and, secondly, the Measure introduced a new principle in respect to the action of the County Councils. In matters of importance, County Councils proceeded after deliberate public inquiry by members of their own body. This Bill enabled them to act at once, without any public inquiry. That was a new principle which might not be accepted by the House. He could not recognise that principle, and therefore should be obliged to vote against the Second Reading if the noble Lord went to a Division.

Earl SPENCER said that about 1880 or 1881 he had charge of Bills for the prevention of floods. Those Bills were discussed at great length, and it was quite true, as Lord Thring had said, that they were lost because of the wide scope of their clauses. It was of the greatest possible importance that something should be done to prevent this great evil. He could not see that there were such great dangers as had been pointed out. The Bill was specially guarded, but his noble Friend had said that if it was not efficiently guarded he would add any safeguard that was reasonable. Both the noble Lord who moved the rejection of the Bill and Lord Northbrook had referred to County Councils. Lord Heneage said he did not wish that County Councils should have any controversial matters to deal with. He was surprised to hear that, because County Councils had now controversial matters to deal with. He was happy to think they very seldom took a political line, but constantly, in his County Council, they had acute controversies on subjects connected with local affairs. Surely County Councils were capable of facing controversial matters such as were dealt with by this Bill. Lord Northbrook said that County Councils were in the habit of holding local inquiries and proceeding with great caution. That was quite true, but did his noble Friend suggest for a moment that County Councils would put a single clause of this Bill into operation without making the most careful inquiry?

The Earl of NORTHBROOK remarked that there was no provision in the Bill as to inquiries.

Earl SPENCER admitted that the Bill contained no such provision, but he was quite certain that every County Council would proceed with the greatest possible care in this matter and would make inquiries as they did in other respects. He would be extremely sorry if his noble Friend withdrew the Bill. The Measure, small though it was, dealt with a great evil, and he would greatly regret if it failed to receive their Lordships' approval. ["Hear, hear!"]

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Resolved in the negative; Bill to be Read 2ª this day three months.

POOR LAW OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION ACT (1896) AMENDMENT BILL.

Considered in Committee (according to Order); Amendments made; Bill re-committed to the Standing Committee; and to be printed as amended. [No. 145.]

FINANCE BILL.

Brought from the Commons; Read 1ª; and to be printed.—[No. 146.]

TURKEY AND GREECE.

Lord CONNEMARA, who rose to ask the Prime Minister whether he could, without inconvenience to the public service, give the House any information as to the negotiations which had been going on for some weeks at Constantinople, consequent upon the war between Turkey and Greece, said he was aware of the inconvenience, as a general rule, of pressing a matter in Parliament with respect to foreign affairs which was already a subject of discussion. In that particular case he thought they would agree that the proceedings at Constantinople had been unusually protracted, and that public danger might arise, both with respect to Turkey and Greece, if those proceedings were not brought to a conclusion before very long. He recollected very well that in 1878, when the noble Marquess with Lord Beaconsfield went to the great Congress at Berlin, the negotiations then took exactly one month. He did not think that any one could compare the importance of that occasion with the present, and yet the difficulties between Turkey and Greece had been under discussion for nearly seven weeks.

The PRIME MINISTER: The reminiscence which my noble Friend has called up is of a very interesting character, but I think it will illustrate the difference between the state of things existing now and that which existed then. I well remember that month's negotiations at Berlin. Prince Bismarck was in the chair. I think that if he were in the chair now the result would be different. But the situation then was much more important. A very powerful Russian army was then within a stone's throw of Constantinople, and any suggestion from Prince Bismarck that a failure of the conference might result in the movement of that army, did undoubtedly produce an effect on Turkish deliberations which we desiderate at the present moment. The delay is entirely the delay of Constantinople itself. I do not presume to judge it, but there would be no delay as far as the five Powers are concerned. They are agreed. I do not know that they are disagreed upon any point. I would not aver that they are agreed absolutely upon every detail. I have not the slightest doubt that if the matter were left to them it would be settled in a very brief space of time. The delay comes from Constantinople. When my noble Friend talks about that being an unprecedented delay I think he has a little forgotten some of the teachings of experience. It is undoubtedly the fact that great deliberation and circumspection have always characterised the action of the Ottoman Government. I think they are carried to an excess at the present time. All that I am concerned to do is to show that it is not in any way chargeable to the responsibility of the five Powers. I do not in any degree deny the suggestion which underlies the observations of the noble Lord, that the delay is calculated to create great injury, and it may, though I hope there is no immediate prospect of such a result, be even attended with danger. Of course it is perfectly true that generally we deprecate discussions upon subjects of this kind which are under consideration and negotiation, and that is a sound principle from which I do not wish in any way to depart. But still it is evident that for some reason or other the Ambassadors are working as it were, under a glass hive, and it would be idle to deny the accuracy of the sketches of the negotiations which the noble Lord has laid before the House. The great questions are those of frontier, indemnity, and the capitulations. I do not know that we have on any one of these three questions the definitive opinion of the Turkish Government. We have the opinions of the five Powers, and they are, I think, in absolute consonance. We are not at present any nearer a solution. Whether we shall get nearer a solution belongs rather to the domain of prophecy than political speculation; but I would only recommend my noble Friend to consider in what respects the situation in 1878 differed from the situation in 1897, and add that in proportion as the situation in 1897 can be made more analogous to that of 1878, in that proportion we increase our hopes of an early and satisfactory settlement. ["Hear, hear!"]

THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY: I so entirely concur with the noble Marquess that it is not desirable while these difficult negotiations are proceeding to have a discussion upon them if it can be avoided, that he may be sure I shall make very few remarks indeed, and those not of a kind to embarrass the Government. I cannot say that the situation is a satisfactory one. It is satisfactory, no doubt, on one point, and I was glad to hear that the Powers are practically agreed. That every one must admit, is a very great point gained. ["Hear, hear!"] The noble Marquess has in very cautious and appropriate language merely indicated what is the actual difficulty of the situation when he said that in proportion as the situation became more in accordance with that which existed at the time of the Berlin Conference, so the expectation of a speedy solution would be increased. I would venture to put that in language not quite so diplomatic, but I will say that to my mind the solution depends on this—whether the Powers, having formed their opinion as to what ought to be done, having agreed on that opinion, will at the proper time—and I hope the time may not be far distant—["hear, hear!"]—being agreed, apply that amount of pressure to the Porte which will put an end to those obstructions which, as the noble Marquess has well said, no one knows so well as the Porte how to apply. There appears this morning a statement in the newspapers—I saw it in *The Times* newspaper—that a telegram has been dispatched to Lord Salisbury by refugees from Candia representing the mercantile and other classes of that town, and complaining in general terms that the state of affairs at Candia is unsatisfactory, and that the British forces there are not able to secure order and the protection of the inhabitants. I simply wish to ask the noble Marquess whether he has received any such telegram.

THE PRIME MINISTER: No, no such telegram has yet reached me. Therefore it would be premature for me to express an opinion upon it. ["Hear, hear!"] At the same time I am bound to express my sympathy with the position of the inhabitants of Crete of both creeds, who, in consequence of diplomatic difficulties, for which the Powers are not responsible, are suffering from a condition of things almost approaching to anarchy, for which they deserve our greatest sympathy. ["Hear, hear!"]

House Adjourned at Half-past Five o'Clock, to Thursday next, a Quarter past Ten o'Clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Tuesday, 6th July 1897.

PARLIAMENTARY FRANCHISE (EXTENSION TO WOMEN) BILL.

Mr. LEONARD COURTNEY (Cornwall, Bodmin) presented a Petition from a number of ladies interested in the question of the extension of the Parliamentary Franchise to women and asked that it might be read by the Clerk at the Table.

The Petition (which was read by the Clerk, Sir Reginald Palgrave) was in the following terms :—

"That your petitioners view with indignation and alarm the existing procedure of the House of Commons, which reduces legislation to a mere game of chance—[*laughter*]—and permits the repeated and insulting postponement of the consideration and satisfaction of the just claims of women to citizenship. Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that your honourable House will so reform your procedure as to secure in the future fair consideration of public questions with some regard to their relative importance—[*laughter*],—and will on Wednesday, July 7th, affirm the right of women to citizenship by passing through the stages of Committee, and of third reading the Parliamentary Franchise (Extension to Women) Bill." [*Laughter.*]

*Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Chairman of Ways and Means): On a point of order, Sir, I wish to ask you whether a petition couched in language of this sort ought to be received by the House, and whether any form exists which would enable a petition of this kind to be rejected? I have not heard the whole of the terms of the petition, but from a sentence or two that I caught it seems to me that it is not at all in a proper form to be presented to the House. ["Hear, hear!"]

*Mr. SPEAKER: It is a matter for the House, and not for me, to say whether the Petition should lie upon the Table. Certainly it does appear to me to be couched in language to which we are not accustomed. ["Hear, hear!"]

Mr. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): I entirely sympathise with that view, and I wish to ask whether I should be in order in moving that the Petition be rejected. [An hon. Member: "Not received."] I beg to move "That the Petition be not received." ["Hear, hear!"]

*Mr. SPEAKER: I have not had an opportunity of looking into the matter, but I am not aware that there is any precedent for a Motion of that kind at this stage. I would therefore suggest to the hon. Gentleman that, the opinion of the House having been indicated, he should let the matter drop. ["Hear, hear!"]

Mr. GIBSON BOWLES: In that case, Sir, I will not press my Motion. [Hear, hear!"]

Mr. COURTNEY: Perhaps I may be permitted to say a word without going into the question of the language of the Petition. If the Petition is to be received I need hardly say any more, but, with regard to the proposal of the hon. Member for Lynn Regis, I would venture to point out that it is not proper to object to a Petition that has not been printed and the terms of which cannot be fully realised by hon. Members.

*Mr. SYDNEY GEDGE (Walsall): As a matter of order, Sir, I should like to ask whether an hon. Member is not answerable for the language of a Petition which he presents. Is an hon. Member compelled to present any Petition which is sent to him, whether it be right or wrong in its form? If its form be wrong, would it not be within the compass of his duty to refuse to present it?

*Mr. SPEAKER: An hon. Member who presents a Petition must exercise his own discretion in doing so. The right hon. Gentleman has in this case exercised his own discretion.

QUESTIONS.

PRISON RULES.

*Mr. JOSEPH A. PEASE (Northumberland, Tyneside): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether there is any intention to revise the prison rules or amend the laws which relate to corporal punishment for offences connected with breaches of prison discipline; and, if so, what is the character of the alterations it is intended to make?

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY, Lancashire, Blackpool): I am laying a new rule on the subject of corporal punishment on the Table of the House to-day; but I cannot deal with the matter so fully as I could wish without the further legislation which, as the hon. Member is aware, I have already proposed to Parliament, but which there has been no time to pass during the present Session.

*MR. JOSEPH A. PEASE: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether there is any intention to revise the prison rules or amend the laws which relate to corporal punishment for offences connected with breaches of discipline in Military prisons; and, if so, what is the character of the alterations it is intended to make?

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE WAR OFFICE (Mr. POWELL-WILLIAMS, Birmingham, S.): Yes, Sir; the question of amending the rules referred to is under consideration; it is proposed to reduce the number of offences for which corporal punishment can be awarded, and to require that the order for it be given by three instead of by two visitors.

ARMY PENSION (OWEN SMITH).

MR. S. YOUNG (Cavan, E.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether he has recently received an application for a pension from a Crimean veteran, named Owen Smith, of Bailieboro, county Cavan; whether he is aware that this man was discharged as an invalid after a severe fever in the Crimea, and certified twelve months later as being unfit for further service; that the man got no pension or allowance; and that his sight, which failed while in the service, is now almost gone; and, considering the special circumstances of his case, that his father was wounded in the battle of Waterloo, that his brother served in the 59th Regiment and died at Hong Kong in 1851, and that his two sons are at present in the Army, he will recommend Her Majesty to grant him a Jubilee pension, and thus keep him from becoming a pauper in the Bailieboro Union workhouse?

MR. POWELL-WILLIAMS: Owen Smith was discharged in 1855 from the 49th Foot after a service of one year and 187 days on account of heart disease. He was awarded a pension for 12 months, which was renewed for a further period of the same duration. There is no evidence that his failure of sight is in any way attributable to his military service. An application for pension has been received from Smith; but there is no warrant under which pension can be granted after such short service.

DESTRUCTION OF CROPS (ESSEX).

MAJOR RASCH (Essex, S.E.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture whether he can now inform the House as to the report of the Commissioner sent into Essex; and, whether the Government are prepared to state whether they can offer any material assistance to the farmers who have been ruined by the storm of 24th June?

THE FIRST COMMISSIONER OF WORKS (Mr. AKERS-DOUGLAS, Kent, St. Augustine's, for Mr. WALTER LONG): I have now received the report of the inspector who was commissioned to inquire into the effects of the recent storm in Essex. He expresses the opinion that the descriptions of the calamity which have appeared in the local newspapers are not overdrawn, and, indeed, that it would be difficult to overstate the damage done or the distress caused. Competent observers have stated that the loss would not be covered by £200,000, and there are many persons who have lost their all who would be saved from want by a little help quickly and judiciously given. I do not think that the Government could safely intervene even in the most unfortunate circumstances of this particular case, but there can be no doubt that the appeal for assistance now being made under the auspices of the Lord Lieutenant of the County is deserving of a very liberal measure of support.

FORGERY (BYNOE AND RIPSHER).

MR. G. C. T. BARTLEY (Islington, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he is aware that in the case of Dr. C. A. Bynoe, who was in 1892 convicted at the Old Bailey of forgery, a woman of the name of Rose Ripsher has confessed to the Home Office authorities that she alone was guilty of the forgery, and that Dr. Bynoe was convicted in error; and whether he has taken steps to release Dr. Bynoe.

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY: I am fully aware of this woman's confession. The case of the prisoner Bynoe has been repeatedly under consideration, but neither my predecessors nor myself have found any reason to doubt the justice of his conviction.

FLOODS (CO. KERRY).

CAPTAIN DONELAN (Cork, E.): On behalf of the hon. Member for Kerry, E. (Mr. JAMES ROCHE), I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, whether he will cause inquiry to be made as to the causes of the recent destructive floods that have occurred in the Rivers Ahane and Maine, in the county of Kerry; and, whether, seeing that a very small expenditure of public money, in clearing the outlet of the Ahane River, will have the effect of preventing a recurrence of these floods, he will direct the Board of Works to make such expenditure for such purpose?

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds Central): It is a fact, I am informed, that floods have occurred in the rivers mentioned. These rivers are not within an arterial drainage district, and the Board of Works have no power to expend public money for the purpose suggested in the question. If the outlet of the Ahane River now requires clearing, the proper course to be adopted is for those in the locality, who are interested, to carry out a scheme of arterial drainage under the Drainage and Improvement of Land Act of 1863, and to obtain a loan from the Board of Works for the purpose.

URUGUAY.

MR. P. FFRENCH (Wexford, S.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he is aware that, owing to the Uruguay Revolution, a large number of British subjects, amongst whom there are many Irishmen, have suffered immense losses, that their sheep, cattle, and horses (thoroughbred English as well as native) were seized by the Government forces engaged in suppressing the revolt; that much valuable property in the shape of steel wire fences, with costly posts and stretchers, has been destroyed; and that British subjects have been treated in the same manner by the rebel forces; and, whether he will order an inquiry into the matter, and instruct the British Consul to claim compensation for losses sustained by British subjects, all of whom have to pay heavy taxes to the Uruguay Government?

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Mr. G. CURZON, Lancashire, Southport): We have not yet heard of any claims having been put forward by British subjects in Uruguay, although Her Majesty's Minister at Montevideo reported to us in March last that he had brought to the notice of the Minister for Foreign Affairs complaints that officers requisitioning horses, cattle, etc., for the Government troops, had refused to give receipts for them, and that he had received an assurance in reply that such conduct was contrary to orders and would at once be inquired into. Should any claims on the part of British subjects be received, the question of their presentation to the Uruguayan Government will be duly considered.

IRISH LAND COMMISSION.

MR. D. MACALEESE (Monaghan, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland (1) if he is aware that copies of orders or agreements fixing fair rents and schedules under section one of the Land Act of 1896 cannot be procured out of the office of the Land Commission under from five or six weeks from the date of bespeaking and paying for same, and whether in order to prevent such delay a sufficient additional staff of copying clerks will be appointed; (2) whether his attention has been called to the rule of the Land Commission under which, in the event of both landlord and tenant appealing, each of them has to lodge a certificate of valuation, the fee for which is 2s. 6d. per rating, and whether steps will be taken to prevent this expense by providing that, in the case of cross appeals, the notice last lodged will be endorsed, and the party on whose behalf the cross appeal has been served saved the expense of procuring a document already in the possession of the Commissioners; and (3) whether it is intended to appoint any and, if so, how many additional Sub-Commissioners to deal with the large number of cases still unheard in the Land Courts?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: As a rule, all requisitions for copies of the documents referred to in the first paragraph are complied with in from two to three weeks. Where this period is exceeded the delay is almost invariably caused by the applicants not having given sufficient information to enable particular cases to be identified. No addition to the copying staff is called for. The Rule mentioned in the second paragraph was made by the Commissioners after careful consideration. I express no opinion on the merits of the Rule, but I will draw the attention of the Commissioners to the suggestion of the hon. Member. As regards the third paragraph, eight additional lay Assistant Commissioners have been appointed within the past week.

ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY.

MR. MACALEESE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland how many Head Constables of or over the age of 65 years are at present doing duty in the Royal Irish Constabulary, and in what places are they stationed.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: There is no Head Constable at present serving in the Constabulary, who is 65 years of age or upwards.

POST OFFICE BOOK POST REGULATIONS.

MR. HENNIKER HEATON (Canterbury): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General (1) whether he is aware that on 23rd June the Postal authorities fined a merchant for sending an order for goods in the following words "please send at once," and that, in answer to the complaint, a reply (No. 243,426) was sent, stating that the order contained written matter other than that allowed; and (2) whether the fine was imposed for the words "please send" or the words "at once."

THE SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. R. W. HANBURY, Preston): On the date mentioned an order for goods such as described was charged with letter postage, and the addressee who complained of the charge was informed as stated by the hon. Member. When orders for goods are sent by book-post they may not contain any written matter beyond the particulars specified in the Post Office Guide, and they become liable to letter postage if any communications such as "please send at once" or "please send" are written and not printed or hand-stamped. This was fully explained to the hon. Member on June 23rd, 1896, when I stated that the concessions which have been made in the past in order to extend the privilege of a cheap and unremunerative post have already gone as far as it is possible to justify, and, if the apparent inconsistencies which have resulted from such concessions are found inconvenient, it may be desirable to reconsider the whole matter and subject all documents of a like character to the letter rate of postage.

MR. HENNIKER HEATON: Will my right hon. Friend answer the last paragraph?

MR. HANBURY: Three words out of the four are wrong. "Send" is the only word allowed, "please" and "at once" are not allowed.

CHIEF INSPECTOR OF FACTORIES (REPORT).

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucester, Forest of Dean): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when the Annual Report of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Factories will be presented to the House?

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY: I hope the Report will be issued within the next three or four weeks. The delay, which has been quite unavoidable, has been due to the fact that an abstract of the annual returns required by the Act of 1895, from occupiers of factories and workshops of the persons employed in them is being included for the first time.

POSTAL FACILITIES (GULLADUFF, CO. DERRY).

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, what reply has been given to the memorial from Gulladuff, county Derry, praying for better postal facilities; and, is it the case that in the two preceding Administrations promises were held out that better postal facilities would be provided?

MR. HANBURY: Owing to the short notice given by the hon. Member of this Question, the Postmaster General is unable to do more than state that inquiry is being made on the subject of the application referred to; but he cannot find that better postal facilities were actually promised by his predecessors in office.

POST OFFICE, DUNDALK.

MR. T. M. HEALY: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, what is the cause of the delay in providing a new post office in Dundalk; how many years has the Question been under consideration; and, how many sites have been rejected on various grounds by the Department?

MR. HANBURY: I stated on May 20th that the cause of the delay is the difficulty of finding a suitable site or premises at what the Post Office consider a reasonable cost. The matter has not reached the Treasury. As the Question only appeared this morning, the Post Office cannot state the number of sites rejected; but the subject, as I stated in my previous answer, has been under consideration since 1893.

CRETE.

MR. JOHN DILLON (Mayo, E.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether a large body of Turkish troops have been conveyed to Candia on a British vessel?

MR. CURZON: We have heard that two companies of Turkish soldiers have been sent from Canea to Candia, to reinforce the outposts and to prevent Moslem raids; but we have no information as to how they were conveyed there.

IRISH TOURIST TRAFFIC.

MR. J. L. CAREW (Dublin, College Green): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether, in view of the strong feeling in Ireland as to the injury to the development of tourist traffic, and the great inconvenience to commercial and other interests, he will consent to the payment of the extra £5,000 a year to enable the acceleration of the day mail trains to be carried out and the times of departure to and from London deferred to more convenient hours?

MR. HANBURY: I understand that the hon. Member is communicating with the Post Office about a deputation on this subject before the Post Office Vote is taken, and it will be better to defer a final reply until the deputation has stated its arguments.

TOKAT MASSACRE.

MR. J. C. FLYNN (Cork, N.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs respecting those who have been found guilty of taking part in the massacre of Armenians at Tokat, (1) whether he can state how many, if any, of the parties sentenced to various terms of imprisonment are now actually undergoing imprisonment; and (2) whether the representatives of the Powers have made any representations to the Porte concerning the parties who have been condemned to death for murder, but who still remain unpunished owing to the non-issue of the Sultan's irade.

MR. CURZON: I answered the first part of the hon. Member's Question yesterday. Those who were condemned to imprisonment have been imprisoned, although we have not been informed of the actual numbers. As regards the second paragraph, Her Majesty's Ambassador reports that he has never ceased pressing the Porte for a confirmation of the capital sentences, and that his colleagues have made similar representations.

POST OFFICE (OMAGH).

MR. G. MURNAGHAN (Tyrone, Mid): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, whether he is aware that the accommodation in the Omagh Post Office is inadequate in several respects; whether he has received from the Omagh

Town Commissioners representations to this effect; and, as Omagh is the chief town of Tyrone and an important postal centre, will he consider the question of erecting a building in which officials and the public can be better accommodated?

MR. HANBURY: No representation from the Omagh Town Commissioners on the subject of the Post Office accommodation in that Town has yet been received, nor has attention been called to the matter, but inquiry shall be made and the information shall be sent to the hon. Member.

BELMULLET UNION.

MR. D. CRILLY (Mayo, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland (1) whether he is aware that the right Rev. Monsignor Hewson, P.P. of Belmullet, has resigned his position as Chairman of the Belmullet Dispensary Committee; and, (2) if the right hon. Gentleman, as Chairman of the Local Government Board of Ireland, can state the reasons given for his resignation?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I believe the fact is as stated in the first paragraph. No reason, so far as I am aware, was given by the reverend gentleman for resigning his membership of the Committee.

MR. CRILLY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland (1) if he is aware that Miss Allen, of Crumlin, county Dublin, having heard that a serious outbreak of fever had taken place in the Belmullet Union, offered her services free to the local board of guardians, and travelled to Belmullet at her own expense to discharge the duties of chief hospital nurse; (2) whether Miss Denny and Miss McAlister, two trained nurses from the City of Dublin Hospital, are now lying in the fever hospitæl at Belmullet as a consequence of their attention to the fever patients on Iniskea Island; and (3) if the Government propose to provide out of their own resources adequate nursing and medical attention for these poor people?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I have no information as to the statements in the first paragraph. The second and third paragraphs I will deal with in answer to the next Question on the Paper.

Mr. G. Murnaghan.

MR. CRILLY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he has had any recent report from the officials of the Local Government Board of Ireland dealing with the outbreak of fever in the Belmullet Union; whether he is aware that, on the 6th June, 44 persons were prostrated by fever in the South Island of Iniskea out of a total of 37 families; that 20 cases were reported last week; that two of the nurses attending these fever cases in Iniskea have been attacked by fever, and were on Friday last brought to the mainland and placed in hospital; and that three other nurses have been telegraphed for to Dublin, and an advertisement published for a second medical officer; and, what steps, if any, the Government propose to take to deal with the existing distress, both from famine and fever, in the Belmullet Union?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I received only yesterday a report from the Medical Inspector of the Local Government Board respecting the outbreak of fever on Iniskea Island. It had not been found possible, in the brief interval since the question was placed on the Paper, to ascertain the number of fever patients on the 6th June, but it appears that on the following day there were 12 cases in the acute stage and 30 in the convalescent stage. One new case was reported last week, not twenty as alleged. There are now in all 14 cases in the acute stage of fever, three under observation, and 18 in the convalescent stage. Two of the nurses contracted the fever and are under treatment in Belmullet. Additional nurses to replace them, as well as a resident medical officer, were landed on the Island on Sunday. All the necessary steps have been taken by the Board of Guardians acting as the Sanitary Authority, and the Local Government Board will continue to advise and assist them in the administration of their statutory powers. As I have already pointed out to the hon. Member, I am not aware of the existence of famine in the Union.

ILLEGAL TRAWLING (GALWAY BAY).

MR. W. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether a gunboat will be sent to Galway Bay and the adjoining coasts to protect the line fishermen from illegal trawling, and to protect the sailing trawlers from the steam trawlers?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: The Inspectors of Fisheries are not aware of any violation of the law having recently taken place in Galway Bay by steam trawlers. There appears to be no necessity, therefore, to make application to the Admiralty for the services of a gunboat as suggested.

TOWN TENANTS (IRELAND).

MR. W. FIELD: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether it is the intention of the Government to bring in a measure dealing with town tenants, to ensure their tenancy and improvements on equal terms with those granted to agricultural tenants?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I am afraid I have nothing to add to the statement made by me in reply to the hon. Member's previous Question of the 26th January last on this subject.

STREET DISTURBANCES, DUBLIN.

MR. FIELD: I beg to ask the Attorney General for Ireland (1) whether it is in accordance with regulations that the Dublin Metropolitan Police should make a baton charge without an order from the senior officer in command; (2) whether notice should be given to the people or the Riot Act read before such a charge is ordered; and, (3) whether any compensation is allowable to the women who suffered from the consequences arising out of such a charge.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: In my right hon. Friend's absence I will reply to this question. No baton charge is made without direction from the officer in command of the police party. In case of a riot, when an attack is made on police, as was done on the occasion to which this question refers, the duty of the police is to disperse rioters, arrest ringleaders, and to use such force as is necessary for the purpose, no notice being required against actual rioters, and the Riot Act is not read. The reply to the third paragraph is in the negative.

NAVAL REGULATIONS.

MR. T. LOUGH (Islington, W.): On behalf of the hon. Member for Devonport (Mr. HUDSON KEARLEY), I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty (1) whether his attention has been called to the sentence recently passed at Devonport on a first class petty officer for walking with his wife in the country on the evening of Her Majesty's birthday (a local holiday) in plain clothes; (2) whether it is a fact that the captain of the naval barracks, who observed, reported, and ultimately tried the offence, was himself in plain clothes at the time in question; and (3) whether, inasmuch as the sentence involves the loss to the man of a penny per day for the remainder of his service, as well as the good conduct medal carrying with it a gratuity of £15, and all chance of securing promotion to the warrant rank for which he was qualifying, and his service record has hitherto been an excellent one with no previous offence recorded against him, the sentence will be reconsidered with a view to its modification?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. GOSCHEN, St. George's, Hanover Square): The facts of the case are as stated in the first and second questions of the hon. Member, except that the breach of discipline was committed on the 21st May, not on the evening of Her Majesty's birthday, and that the petty officer was alone when met by the captain of the naval barracks. In reply to the third question, the punishment awarded was deprivation of a good conduct badge, which involves the loss of a penny a day until the badge is restored. This by very good conduct can be recovered in six months.

BANTRY PIER.

MR. JAMES GILHOOLY (Cork Co., W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland what the yearly amount of the tolls collected in connection with the Bantry Pier is, and what amount is to the credit of the pier account; whether, pursuant to the provisions of 9th and 10th Vict. cap. 3, all moneys collected as tolls of said pier ought to be expended for its repairs and the dredging of the adjacent harbour; and, whether, in view of the fact that a portion of the harbour now requires to be dredged, he will recommend that it shall be immediately done?

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: The average annual amount of tolls collected at this pier is £45. The accounts are submitted to the Grand Jury at each Assizes, and any expenditure on repairs is met by Grand Jury presentment. Section 7 of the 16 and 17 Vict. cap. 136 imposes on the Grand Jury the duty of repairing the pier and maintaining the works of the harbour such as they were when transferred to the county by the Board of Works. I have no information that the Grand Jury have failed to properly maintain the harbour, as to depth, but have caused inquiry to be made on this point.

COVENT GARDEN THEATRE FUND.

Mr. J. F. HOGAN (Tipperary, Mid): I beg to ask the Attorney General, when he expects to be in a position to report the results of his inquiries into the management and administration of the Covent Garden Theatre Fund?

The ATTORNEY GENERAL (Sir Richard Webster, Isle of Wight): I have directed steps to be taken to ascertain, and if necessary investigation to be made, as to the management and administration of the fund. As proceedings are in contemplation it is not possible for me to say more now, nor can I express any opinion as to when the investigation will be completed.

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH (ENGLAND).

Sir WALTER FOSTER (Derby, Ilkeston): I beg to ask the Attorney General whether he has considered the form in which the oath is administered in Courts of Justice in England with reference to the sanitary objections urged against it; and whether it is the intention of the Government to make any proposals for amending the Law so as to abolish the objectionable practice known as kissing the book.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: I can only repeat my reply to the hon. Member that I think the sanitary objections to the present method of administering the oath have been somewhat exaggerated. Personally I believe the option at present of swearing in the Scotch form, which is becoming every day more generally known, is sufficient. It is not the intention of the Government to amend the law, at any rate during the present Session.

QUEEN'S BENCH CASE.

Mr. LAWSON WALTON (Leeds, S.): I beg to ask the Attorney General whether his attention has been called to the fact that there are only four Judges now engaged upon the work of the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court, and that there is little prospect of this number being increased during the present circuit; and, whether, having regard to the heavy list of cases awaiting hearing, he will promote some arrangement for disposing of this business before the Long Vacation.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: I must remind my hon. and learned Friend that I have no power to make the arrangement he desires. The question only appeared upon the paper to-day, but I will see that the attention of the Lord Chancellor and the Lord Chief Justice is called to the matter.

HOUSE OF COMMONS (DISTINGUISHED STRANGERS).

Mr. HOGAN: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he is aware that Members of the Imperial Parliament visiting the self-governing Colonies are, on the Motion of the Premier, accommodated with chairs on the floor of the House to the right of the Speaker, and that this courtesy is never reciprocated, even the Prime Ministers of the Colonies having to be content with ordinary seats in the galleries of this House; and, whether he will consider the propriety of proposing a new order, to provide that in future visiting Colonial Premiers and Ministers of the Crown be admitted to the gallery on the right of the Speaker reserved for Members of this House, but rarely occupied?

The FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.): I am sure that there would be every desire on the part of the House to treat distinguished visitors with the utmost courtesy; but the hon. Member who puts this question must bear in mind that the structure of this

House is very different from that of most popular Assemblies, and that, as a matter of fact, hon. Members of this House, if they attend in large numbers, can hardly get places for themselves. It would, therefore, be difficult to allocate a part of this House to those who do not form part of this Assembly. Any attempt to put chairs on the floor of the House, as I believe is done in other Assemblies, could not be carried out here, as it would interfere with the Divisions.

COUNTY COUNCILS (ADVANCES) BILL.

Second Reading upon Monday next.

INCLOSURE ACTS AMENDMENT.

Bill to amend the Inclosure Acts, ordered to be brought in by Colonel R. Williams, Mr. Channing, Sir Walter Foster, and Mr. Muntz; presented accordingly, and Read the First time; to be ready a Second time upon Thursday, and to be printed.—[Bill 302].

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

WORKMEN (COMPENSATION FOR ACCIDENTS) BILL.

Order Read for resuming adjourned Debate on Amendment to proposed Amendment, on consideration of the Bill, as amended [5th July.]

Clause 1,—

LIABILITY OF CERTAIN EMPLOYERS TO WORKMEN FOR INJURIES.

(1.) If in any employment to which this Act applies personal injury by accident arising out of and in the course of the employment is caused to a workman, his employer shall, subject as hereinafter mentioned, be liable to pay compensation in accordance with the first schedule to this Act, such compensation shall be payable whether the injury occasioned arises from the act of the employer or of some person in his employ, or from the act a stranger thereto. Provided that where such injury shall be occasioned by the act of a stranger under circumstances creating a legal liability to pay damages in respect thereof, the workman may at his option proceed either at law against such person to recover damages or against his employer for compensation under this Act, and if he be compensated under this Act the employer shall be entitled to enforce in the name of the workman all rights of action possessed by him against the person occasioning such injury as aforesaid.

(2.) Provided that:—

(*a*) The employer shall not be liable under this Act in respect of any injury which does not disable the workman for a period of at least two weeks from earning full wages at the work at which he was employed;

(*b*) When it is decided, as hereafter provided, that the injury was caused by the personal negligence or wilful act of the employer or of some person for whose act or default the employer is responsible, nothing in this Act shall affect any civil liability of the employer, but in that case the amount of damages due from such employer may, at the request of the persons claiming compensation, be settled by arbitration in accordance with the second schedule to this Act, or may at the option of such persons be recovered from such employer by the same proceedings as were open to such persons before the commencement of this Act; but the employer shall not be liable to pay compensation both independently of and also under this Act, and shall not be liable to pay compensation independently of this Act, except in case of such personal negligence or wilful act;

(*c*) If it is proved that the accident is solely attributable to the serious and wilful misconduct of a workman, any compensation claimed in respect of injury to that workman shall be disallowed.

(3.) If any question arises as to whether the injury was caused by the personal negligence or wilful act of the employer, or of any person for whose act or default the employer is responsible, or whether the injury was caused by accident arising out of and in the course of the employment of the workman injured, or whether the accident was solely attributable to the serious and wilful misconduct of the workman in respect of whose injuries compensation is claimed, or as to the amount or duration of compensation under this Act, or otherwise as to the liability for compensation under this Act, the question, if not settled by agreement, and any question as to whether the employment is one to which this Act applies, shall, subject to the provisions of the first schedule to this Act, be settled by arbitration, in accordance with the second schedule to this Act. Proceedings for the recovery under this Act of compensation for an injury shall not be maintainable unless notice of the accident has been given as soon as practicable after the happening thereof, and the claim for compensation with respect to such accident has been made within six months from the occurrence of the accident causing the injury, or, in case of death, within twelve months from the time of death. Provided always that the want of such notice shall not be a bar to the maintenance of such proceedings if it is found in the proceedings for settling the claim that the employer is not prejudiced in his defence by the absence of such notice, or that such absence was occasioned by mistake or other reasonable cause. Notices shall be served in the manner provided for by the Employers' Liability Act 1880, Section seven.

(4.) If the Registrar of Friendly Societies, after ascertaining the views of the employers and workmen, certifies that any scheme of compensation or insurance for the workmen in any employment is on the whole not less favourable to the workmen and their dependants than the provisions of this Act, the employer may, until the certificate is revoke, contract with any of those workmen that the provisions of the scheme shall be substituted for the provisions of this Act, and thereupon the employer shall be liable only in accordance with the scheme, but, save as aforesaid, this Act shall apply, notwithstanding any contract to the contrary made after the commencement of this Act. No scheme shall be so certified which contains an obligation upon the workmen to join the scheme as a condition of their hiring.

If the funds under any such scheme are not sufficient to meet the compensation payable thereout the employer shall be liable to make good the amount of compensation which would be payable under this Act.

(5.) The Registrar of Friendly Societies shall in every year make a report of his proceedings under this Act, and that report shall be laid before Parliament.

(6.) If any workmen or their representatives shall submit to the said Registrar *primâ facie* evidence that the provisions of any scheme are no longer favourable to the workman as the provisions of this Act, or that the provisions of such scheme are being violated, or that the same is not being fairly administered by the employers, or that satisfactory reasons exist for revoking the certificate, then he shall examine into the complaint, and, if satisfied that good cause exists for such complaint, shall, unless the cause of complaint is removed, revoke the certificate.

(7.) Whenever a scheme has been certified as aforesaid, it shall be the duty of the employer to answer all inquiries and to furnish all such accounts as may from time to time be required by the Registrar of Friendly Societies.

And which Amendment [proposed 5th July] was in Sub-section (2) after the words last inserted at the end of paragraph (*b*) to insert the words:—

"Provided that nothing in this Act shall affect the right of any of Her Majesty's Inspectors of Factories to recover penalties under Section eighty-two of the forty-first and forty-second Victoria, chapter sixteen, and Acts amending the same, and that the recovery of such penalties shall not be taken into account in estimating compensation under this Act."—(*Mr. Tennant.*)

And the Amendment to the proposed Amendment was, to leave out from the word "same," to the end of the proposed Amendment, in order to add instead thereof the words:—

"but if such penalties, or any part thereof, are applied for or to the benefit of any person injured, such amount shall be taken into account in estimating the amount of compensation under this Act."—(*Mr. Chamberlain.*)

Question again proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the proposed Amendment."

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY, Lancashire, Blackpool) now asked to withdraw Mr. Chamberlain's Amendment, and to move the following Amendment in its place: To leave out all the words after the word "same," in order to insert the words:—

"but if such penalty, or any part thereof, has been applied for the benefit of the person injured, the amount so applied shall be taken into account in estimating the compensation under this Act."

Amendment, as amended, inserted in the Bill.

MR. DAVID THOMAS (Merthyr Tydvil) moved to leave out paragraph (c) of Sub-section (2). He said that from his experience of the working of the Acts already in force he believed this paragraph would be very prejudicial to the Bill, and do great injustice to the workmen.

*SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY said the Government could not accept the Amendment. If they gave special advantages to the workman against his employer, when the latter was guilty of personal negligence or wilful default, then the workman should not be entitled to recover in the event of being himself guilty of serious and wilful misconduct. If this principle were not to be observed there would be no justice in the Bill.

*MR. CHARLES FENWICK (Northumberland, Wansbeck) said that, if the principal object of the Bill was to prevent litigation, the Government were not acting wisely in insisting upon this sub-section standing part of the Bill. The effect of the sub-section would be to bring the workman's conduct under consideration whenever any claim for compensation arose. ["Hear, hear!"] The employer to avoid paying compensation would in every case set up the contention that the action was due solely to the workman's wilful misconduct, and the conduct of the workman would be brought under criticism and examination in almost every claim for compensation. The Colonial Secretary, in dealing with the subject in Committee, asked whether it was desirable to add another litigable point to the Bill. He evidently thought the subject would give rise to serious controversy between workmen and their employers. [MR. CHAMBERLAIN *shook his head.*] He would give the right hon. Gentleman's exact words:—

> "Was it worth while to add another litigable point in the Bill in connection with cases which must, after all, necessarily be rare?"

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.): What is the date?

MR. FENWICK said he was sorry he could not give the date when the words were spoken, but he had just copied them from "The Parliamentary Debates."

MR. CHAMBERLAIN: Can the hon. Member give me the reference or say whether the words would apply to the present form of Amendment?

*MR. FENWICK: Yes; to the present form of Amendment. It was only when the misconduct should be shown to be serious and wilful that the claim for compensation would be debarred. Was it desirable, therefore, to retain these words, which would give rise to friction between employers and workmen? Good employers would not seek to save themselves from the liability of paying compensation by urging such a contention as this, but there were unquestionably a large number of employers who would set up the defence that the injury was surely attributable to the serious and wilful misconduct of the workman in order to avoid the liability. In the case of an accident resulting in death, the very man who would be able to give testimony to the cause of the accident would be dead, and if this defence were set up his family would be deprived of their compensation. He contended that there was great force in the argument that the employer would in every case when an accident occurred seek to prove that the injury was solely attributable to the serious or wilful misconduct of the workman. He cordially supported the Amendment.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN said he could not help thinking there was some unfairness in quoting a few lines from anyone who had taken part in these debates, and which, after all, were inconsistent with the general line of argument which he had taken. ["Hear, hear!"] The hon. Gentleman opposite, who he was sure did not wish to be unfair, alleged some words against him which he was unable to find in the Debates, but omitted to mention that the Amendment as it stood was moved by himself, defended by himself, and accepted pretty generally by the House. He was quite sure that in using such words he must have had in view, not the Amendment which was now before the House, but some other question, or some imperfect view of the question. In introducing this Amendment he had explained that it was an endeavour on his part and on the part of the Government to give effect to what they believed were the wishes of the workpeople, and that if the employer were open to heavier burdens than had been imposed in cases of personal negligence they ought to take care that the workman guilty of negligence of a gross character by which he put in jeopardy the lives of his fellow-workmen should be debarred from compensation. Surely no one would contend that that was not a case with which they had to deal. He recollected perfectly that in the discussion the case was put of a workman who, contrary to the most explicit instructions, went down a fiery mine, lit his pipe there, and caused an explosion by which probably many of his fellow-workmen lost their lives, while he himself was injured. Was there any justice whatever in pretending that such a man ought to have compensation? Such an accident as this was caused not by what was ordinarily called contributory negligence but by gross and culpable negligence. In order to meet such a case they proposed the Amendment in the terms which now appeared. It would be observed that in the first place it was required, in order that a workman might be excluded, that the accident should be solely attributable to his action, and the old doctrine of contributory negligence, which they admitted had been greatly abused, had been destroyed. In the second place it was required that the accident should be attributable to his serious and wilful misconduct. As a matter of justice he did not feel that anybody would say that a workman coming under those terms ought to be compensated. The only other argument was that in dealing with what no doubt was a rather rare exception they might be accepting a condition which would be used or abused in other cases—the hon. Gentleman opposite said in almost every case.

*Mr. FENWICK: In many cases.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN said it was argued that an employer would raise a plea of this kind in many cases before he paid the compensation under the Bill. He could only say that his experience was absolutely the reverse of that of the hon. Gentleman. He did not believe anything of the kind would be done, nor could such action be followed by any kind of success. The difficulty of proving that the accident was solely attributable to wilful and serious misconduct would be so great, and there were so few cases that could be raised with the slightest chance of success, that he believed they had carefully guarded against any abuse of the provision. Otherwise there might be cases of gross injustice, revolting to common sense, which he could not believe the House would be content to acquiesce in.

Mr. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis) said the strength of the position of his hon. Friend opposite lay in the fact that the revolting proposal was in the Bill as it was originally introduced. In the course of the discussions in Committee, which were not at all too long, the right hon. Gentleman the Colonial Secretary described the state of things which would exist without this clause as perfectly monstrous,—that it was monstrous to assert that a man had any right to compensation, when he was the agent in bringing about all the suffering and loss. That monstrous thing was in the Bill when it was originally introduced. How the matter was to be put to the proof if the workman to whom was attributed the accident was killed he did not know. At any rate this subsection was absolutely necessary.

*Mr. JOHN WILSON (Durham, Mid) said the Colonial Secretary must have forgotten the discussions in Committee. The experience which the right hon. Gentleman had now he had had when the Bill was first introduced, and it was surprising that he should now defend a provision which was inserted in the first instance against his desire. If a man were killed in an accident, and had not seriously misconducted himself or violated any rule whatever, the tendency would be—except human nature was better than he had experience of it—to throw the liability upon the dead man. Take the case of a workman in a mine. An official came in and gave the man orders, and shortly afterwards the man lost his life. The official would say, "I gave the man orders which he did not carry out, and he has lost his life, and he has therefore no claim for compensation." How was the dead man to disprove that charge? When the Bill was originally introduced, the Colonial Secretary brushed aside all ideas of justice. The right hon. Gentleman said it was not a matter of justice or logic, but a matter of expediency. It might be a strange thing to say, but he, as a workman, looked upon the Bill as a piece of injustice. It was right that the injured workman should be compensated, but he thought it unjust to make the employers responsible for accidents over which they had no control. But this Measure knew nothing whatever of justice; it was all a matter of expediency. What was wanted was a national fund to which income taxpayers and royalty owners should contribute, and out of which all accidents should be paid for. In Committee, an Amendment was moved that where an injured man had violated a rule or contravened an Act of Parliament, he should have no claim for compensation. That Amendment was withdrawn on the understanding that the Colonial Secretary would bring in another Amendment to meet the point, and subsequently the right hon. Gentleman brought in the words that were now in the Bill. He had asked at the time, and he desired to ask now, for an explanation of the words "seriously and wilfully misconducted himself." He had no desire to screen a man who had broken the law. But he would like to know how many of those cases arose every year. Where did this fanciful case of the Colonial Secretary occur—the case of a man lighting his pipe in a gaseous atmosphere and blowing 200 of his fellow workmen into eternity? Let them have a concrete case. Let them lay imagination aside in discussing this matter. The right hon. Gentleman said it was a matter of expediency, and not of justice.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN: No, No! I did not say so, though the hon. Gentleman has frequently repeated it. I said there was a question of justice, and that justice required that a man injured in these circumstances should not be compensated. But I also said there was a question of expediency, whether it was not wise even in such a case to give compensation.

*MR. JOHN WILSON (Durham, Mid) said that was exactly what he had represented the right hon. Gentleman as having said. Justice took the first place in the right hon. Gentleman's mind, but expediency supplanted it. Their desire was not that the offender should be screened, but that the non-offender should not be harassed. Was it really imagined that a workman would so far wilfully misconduct himself as to endanger his life? Human nature was the same in workmen as in employers. If an employer would try to preserve his life or save himself from injury, so would the workman. Was it really imagined that any workman, for the sake of the uncertain compensation offered him by the Bill—for really there was no certainty about it—would deliberately with his eyes open do a thing which would injure him, or would take his life, and leave his wife and children in poverty? The notion was ridiculous. Every Amendment that had been made in the Bill tended to minimise the good of the Bill and to enlarge its evil, and to alienate the workmen from it.

MR. HENRY SETON-KARR (St. Helens) said he desired to point out the extraordinary illogical position of the hon. Member for Mid Durham and his Friends. They had stated over and over again, both in the House and out of it, that their aim was the prevention of accident, and not compensation. They had said, "We do not care so much about compensation so long as we prevent accidents." What better prevention could they have, so far as the workman was concerned, than the provision that, if a workman were injured by his own carelessness he would not get compensation? Was it not ridiculous to think that a workman who might be proceeded against criminally for manslaughter would be entitled to claim compensation for the consequences of his act from his employer? He admitted that the Bill was not, from one point of view, very just, but this really was the case where justice prevailed over expediency. Not a single argument against the proviso had been adduced. If the employer were to be penalised for carelessness why not the workman? The proviso was justified from every point of view. The hon. Member for Durham assumed that the employer and his foreman were going to commit perjury regularly to escape claims for compensation.

COLONEL DENNY (Kilmarnock Burghs) pointed out that the whole burden of proof as to the wilful misconduct of the workman rested upon the employer. What could the hon. Member for Durham think the masters were who would constantly commit perjury and act like men without conscience or heart in order to stretch the cause in the way the hon. Member suggested? In such a business as that of shipbuilding it would be absolutely impossible for a workman to have an accident without there being a number of men round him to see it. The House should discriminate between mining and other trades in this matter. He believed that the proviso was absolutely necessary, not only for the masters but for the men also, because a point of discipline was involved. The proviso would be honestly worked by the vast majority of masters.

MR. J. COLVILLE (Lanarkshire, N.E.) said that the proviso would assuredly give rise to very many vexatious actions, and leave the men unable to dispute successfully the assertions of the foremen. He thought that some words were necessary to protect the masters from being penalised by the misconduct of the men; but the wording proposed was too stringent. He suggested the substitution of "may be disallowed" for "shall be disallowed."

*MR. JOHN WILSON (Falkirk Burghs) said that he did not dispute that there was much injustice in the Bill. The employer was required to give everything, and the workman nothing. The hon. Member for Durham had asked for specific instances in which accidents had been caused by the carelessness of the workman. The mining inspector's reports for the West of Scotland proved that men working in the coal mines had caused a most serious explosion by opening the lamps to light their pipes. This was at Herbertshire Colliery in Stirlingshire, and many other instances of a like nature could be proved. Time after time he had to bring respectable men before the Sheriff's Court for such an Act. He had known a case in his own colliery where the men who were making up "shots" actually smoked with open lamps over the powder chest, and so caused an explosion. Cases of the same kind might be found any week in the Scottish newspapers.

MR. R. B. HALDANE (Haddingtonshire) said that from the standpoint of abstract justice there could be no doubt that the workman who was injured in consequence of his own wilful misconduct ought not to be compensated. But the question was whether it was possible to give effect to this proviso without defeating the whole intention of the Bill. In the Bill's original form this proviso was not included. The employers of labour in the House were men of the highest standing, and no doubt none of them would put a clause of this kind into force unjustly. But it was necessary to consider what would be done by men with a less keen sense of public duty. Some ingenious person would write a text book on the Bill, after it became law, and would lay down a number of stock defences which might be used in every case. It was highly objectionable that a new form of litigation should be introduced. Injustice might be done to the employer if the proviso were omitted, but still more injustice would be done to the men if the proviso were inserted. As the purpose of the Bill was to enforce the principle of adequate compensation, it would be better to leave the Bill in the form in which it was introduced.

*COLONEL BLUNDELL (Lancashire, Ince) supported the Amendment, not only on the ground of justice, but on grounds of expediency, as it was necessary to maintain discipline, and he hoped the Government would persevere.

MR. T. R. LEUTY (Leeds, E.) thought the most satisfactory way to deal with this question would be to allow even the culpable employé to take his benefit exactly as would be done in the case of a life insurance policy. If a man brought about his own death by his own negligence he would not forfeit the right to claim under a life insurance policy. But supposing there was an explosion and many men killed through a man smoking in a mine, the wife and dependants of a fellow workman working alongside, who had practically condoned the offence, would get compensation, though a party to the crime, while the wife and family of the man who had brought about the accident, though themselves perfectly innocent, would lose their insurance. If this were only putting upon employers the liability for their own acts or default, it would be necessary to put in some clause as to contributory negligence, but this Bill put upon the industry all the risks attending this industry, instead of these being left upon the employés. It seemed well that all the risks should be thrown on industry or upon the employer whether he took the risks himself or insured against them. Such a case as that suggested by the Colonial Secretary should be dealt with as a criminal offence, and not deprive the wife and family of all the advantage of that which became practically a system of national insurance. This proviso would lead to enormous difficulty, not because employers generally would attempt to get up fraudulent cases, but if they had any reason to think there had been wilful negligence they would endeavour to defend themselves. The House would be opening the door to endless disputes as to what was a case of accident. He should like to see the Bill left without this proviso so that even a culpable employé would get a benefit as under a life insurance policy, but the criminal consequences should be made more stringent.

MR. ROBERT ASCROFT (Oldham) thought the Government would be well advised if they accepted the Amendment. If the sub-section were allowed to remain there would be an element of discord constantly arising between, not the employer, but between the insurance company, who stood in the position of the employer, and the representative of the workman who was injured or killed. No representative workman in this House considered that a workman who was guilty of wilful or wicked negligence was entitled to compensation, but would not the retention of this section be more expensive to employers than striking it out? If the sub-section were to be extended and made stronger, he felt certain that the insurance offices would adopt the same plan they now adopted and raise every kind of objection in order to avoid payment.

SIR JAMES JOICEY (Durham, Chester-le-Street) was surprised that any one should object to the insertion of such a section. He felt sure that if the matter were discussed with the representatives of labour in the House they would admit that it was a very proper and reasonable thing that a man who wilfully broke the rules, which were framed under an Act of Parliament in order to protect life, should be penalised to the extent of losing his compensation. He admitted that there were many breaches of the rules for which he should not be disposed to bar compensation, and if the clause were passed, he should afterwards propose an Amendment which would restrict its operation to the more flagrant cases. In his view it was an immoral thing that a man should be compensated for a gross breach of the law, and he hoped the House would consider well before it decided to reject this clause.

MR. GEORGE WHITELEY (Stockport) thought it the *reductio ad absurdum* of argument to say that, notwithstanding that a man who has been guilty of serious misconduct should be debarred from compensation, still that compensation should be paid to him, because otherwise litigation would follow.

MR. W. ABRAHAM (Glamorgan, Rhondda) said no representative of labour would desire to condone in the least the act of any workman who had wilfully committed some act or default which brought about an accident. What the workmen wanted to establish was this—that while this provision carefully protected on the one hand it opened the door so wide that in every other case of accident, especially where the unfortunate workman was killed, the opportunity would be afforded to make a case against the dead man. Representatives of workmen knew what efforts had been made to blame dead men in the case of accidents, and they were now endeavouring to protect men who could not possibly defend themselves. If this provision were carried, litigation would ensue in almost every case, and the great benefits which were expected to result from the Bill would ultimately be reduced to a very small compass indeed.

Question put, "That the words 'If it is proved that the accident is' stand part of the Bill."

The House divided:—Ayes, 201; Noes, 119.—(Division List, No. 270.)

COLONEL DENNY said he thought some Amendment of the proviso was necessary in order to make sure upon whom the liability was to fall. He moved, in paragraph (*c*), after the word "workman" to insert the words, "or workmen." They might have a case in which several workmen were all equally negligent, and the liability should not fall on one man. Perhaps the Attorney General would advise the House whether the singular "workman" covered the plural "workmen"?

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Sir RICHARD WEBSTER, Isle of Wight) said the plural "workmen" had not been used because it certainly might give rise to the argument that the doctrine of contributory negligence was intended to be restored; that was to say, that if there were negligence on the part of one in a set of workmen, then the other men might be involved in the negligence and might not recover. Of course, if there was a case of direct misconduct on the part of three or four, all workmen, the word "workman" would include each one of them.

MR. JAMES LOWTHER (Kent, Thanet) doubted whether the Attorney General was right in saying that the singular included the plural. Take such a case as that mentioned by the Colonial Secretary—a man lighting his pipe in a fiery mine. All he would have to do was to induce his fellow workmen to commit the same breach of rule and the whole proviso would come to nothing. He did not feel inclined to think that such a conclusion would be put upon the word as the Attorney General said.

*MR. FENWICK would like to ask the Attorney General a question in reference to what he had said. Suppose five or six men were working together and an accident occurred which was proved to be due to the serious and wilful misconduct of one; would that include the whole five or six?

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: No; I said the misconduct of each one of them. I said distinctly that we objected to putting in the word "workmen" in order to prevent that conclusion being drawn. I never intended to say that if out of five workmen one was guilty of negligence the others could not recover. On the contrary I said, and say, that only the workman who is negligent is to be debarred, and that the word "workman" would cover each one of the workmen who is negligent.

*MR. FENWICK: Let me put a case. Six men are working in a drift; an explosion takes place, a pipe is afterwards found on the spot, and it is concluded on the inquiry that the accident is due to the pipe—or it may be to an unlocked lamp, which would constitute in my judgment serious and wilful misconduct. Supposing the explosion resulted in the death of the whole of the six men, although only one man clearly could have been using the pipe; what would be the effect of these words? Would the friends of the whole of these workmen be deprived of compensation?

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: Certainly not.

MR. W. S. ROBSON (South Shields) said the hon. Gentleman had not observed that the accident must be proved to be solely attributable to the serious and wilful misconduct of the workman. The mere fact of a pipe being found after the explosion would not be proof that the accident was solely attributable to the workman's misconduct.

MR. PARKER SMITH (Lanark, Partick) said he did not think his hon. Friend wanted to go back to the idea of contributory negligence at all. But he would give a case which might easily happen in engineering works. A couple of men were sent to bring a heavy piece of work from the furnace. There were plenty of chain-slings about, but the men chose to use a rope that was not strong enough to lift the weight; the rope broke, and both were burnt—both men being equal, and not one in command of the other. He took it that his hon. Friend had in his mind a case of that kind. He understood from the Attorney General that the words would cover such a case. But they did not cover the case of a dozen men hurt through one man smoking a pipe against rules.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. SETON-KARR moved, in paragraph (*c*), after the word "workman" to insert the words, "or to the breach by the workman or workmen of any rules contained in or established by any Act of Parliament in respect of which the workman or workmen are liable to fine or imprisonment." He appealed with confidence to the Government, and to every Member of the House who wanted to make the proviso clear and simple, to support his Amendment. The words "serious and wilful misconduct," they all must admit were somewhat vague, and required some such definition as he had proposed. Take the case of an employer. The most serious act of negligence an employer could commit, and for which he could be held responsible, would be the breach of a statutory regulation. It seemed only fair that the men on the same ground should be specifically exempted from compensation if they on their part committed any breach of rule or regulation which came under an Act of Parliament. He was quite aware that it might be said—and possibly with some amount of force—that it would open the door to employers setting up the defence that there had been some trivial breach of rule which really did not amount to serious and wilful misconduct. With regard to that point, speaking as an ordinary layman, he submitted that the words he had put on the Paper did away with that danger. But he saw that the hon. Baronet (Sir James Joicey) had an Amendment on the Paper. He had not had an opportunity of consulting him, but he might say at once that if he might add the last three lines of the hon. Baronet's Amendment to his own, he should be happy to do so, for it seemed to him that this addition to his Amendment would do away altogether with any possible objection to the form of words. The Colonial Secretary had an interview yesterday on this point with a body of gentlemen whose views would no doubt have a great deal more influence than anything he could advance. But it did seem to him that the words he had proposed were necessary to make the proviso clear, and to these he desired to add, if thought necessary, the last three lines of the hon. Baronet's Amendment:—

"unless the arbitrator should be of opinion that the breach of such rules was so trivial that it ought not to deprive the workman of his right to compensation."

MR. CHAMBERLAIN said his hon. Friend had referred to the deputation representing the textile fabric trades, which waited on him yesterday. Their representations were certainly entitled to serious consideration. They suggested an Amendment in the words put on the Paper by his hon. Friend. But his first criticism was that rules which might be established under any Act of Parliament was a very wide expression. Many of such rules were peculiar in their character, and it would be unfair that the workman should be debarred from compensation because of the breach of one, perhaps, out of a hundred rules. The gentlemen present admitted the justice of that criticism, and said they would be satisfied if the debarring provision were confined to actual statutory rules, included in an Act of Parliament. At first sight, he confessed, that seemed a reasonable proposal; because rules embodied in an Act must be assumed to have been carefully considered in the interests of safety and the prevention of accidents, and therefore they should do nothing that would in any way limit or loosen the obligation to observe them. But upon further reflection, and after consultation with other persons of experience and his own colleagues, they saw that there were still some difficulties that were not entirely met even by such an Amendment. ["Hear, hear!"] It might be—and he believed, as a matter of fact, it was so—that even in the rules embodied in Acts of Parliament there were many that were not of a serious character; and the breach of such rules ought not to debar compensation. ["Hear, hear!"] It would be necessary, therefore, to add the proposal which his hon. Friend had adopted, to give the arbitrator a discretion. But that raised the question whether, after all, they had not better leave the discretion wholly to the arbitrator. ["Hear, hear!"] He believed that after all the best safeguard of the interests of employers and employed would be in the discretion allowed to the arbitrator. In his own opinion there was no doubt whatever that the wilful breach of a rule distinctly intended to secure the safety of a man and his fellow-workmen, would constitute serious and wilful misconduct, and under these circumstances the arbitrator would refuse compensation. This being so, he thought it was undesirable to limit the discretion of the arbitrator in the way suggested. The centre point upon which the Bill revolved was the principle of arbitration. The Government had endeavoured to establish arbitration which would meet with general confidence, and which would be cheap and economical, and his own opinion was—having carefully considered the arguments laid before him—that they would do well to leave the arbitrator full discretion.

SIR J. JOICEY said that before the Amendment was accepted there should be a clear statement by the Attorney General—which on a point of law would carry more weight than the opinion of the Secretary for the Colonies—whether a breach of rules on the part of a workman would be construed as wilful misconduct. He scarcely thought the proposal of the Secretary for the Colonies as good as that contained in the Amendment. He would not like a workman to be deprived of compensation for a breach of the rules which was merely trivial. But if a breach of the rules, however trivial, was to be regarded as wilful misconduct, he did not see how the arbitrator could remit the offence and give compensation.

MR. G. WHITELEY said, as one who introduced the deputation to the Colonial Secretary on Monday, he wished to express his disappointment that the right hon. Gentleman had not been able to approve an Amendment which, in the view of the deputation, was just to the employers in the textile industries. He himself would like to insert the words, "Provided that such non-observance has not been knowingly committed by the employer." This would meet the difficulties of the case in the textile industries. He was informed that 90 per cent. of accidents in the textile industries for which compensation would be payable resulted from cleaning machinery which was in motion. In the textile mills time was allowed for cleaning machinery when the week's work was done. But a great many operatives cleaned the machinery when it was in motion, and directly the engine was stopped they could leave the premises and thus secure half an hour or an hour's leisure. This was in direct conflict with the interests of the employer, which were best consulted by the operatives cleaning the machinery when stationary, rather than when in motion. It was also done contrary to the wishes of the employer in the great bulk of cases. If this were against the rules and regulations of the employer, and in contravention of an Act of Parliament, was it not hard and unjust upon the employer to say that when an accident occurred he should be liable? He had supported the Bill throughout, but he thought that in some respects the interests of the employer should be considered. The Government said they desired to avoid litigation, but there was something worse than litigation, and that was injustice. He had had an opportunity of meeting a large number of employers in the cotton industry in Lancashire, and he was struck by the almost burning feeling of injustice which they evinced in regard to this Bill. They said that if you stood over them with a drawn sword many operatives would not be prevented from cleaning machinery while it was in motion, and if after they had made every provision against accident they were made liable for any accident that happened, it would be very hard. He should like to move as an Amendment to the Amendment the words he had indicated.

*Mr. SPEAKER intimated that if the Amendment before the House were carried then the hon. Member could move his Amendment as an addition.

Sir R. T. REID submitted that the words of the Bill as they stood sufficiently carried out the object of the Amendment. They were evidently intended to prevent compensation being lost unless the misconduct were serious and wilful; that was to say trifling misconduct or involuntary misconduct would not cause loss of compensation. He had no doubt whatever that the breach of rules made under an Act of Parliament would be regarded as wilful misconduct. If the words under consideration were introduced, the Judges might be led to think that something short of serious and wilful misconduct would still be sufficient to deprive a man of compensation.

Mr. LAURENCE HARDY (Kent, Ashford) said it was clear from the discussion that had taken place that the words of the Bill might be construed widely. Possibly none of the Amendments would deal with the matter in a way that would be satisfactory in carrying out the Act, and he hoped the Government, in the light of the information they had received, and of the strong opinion felt in the country as to the wording of the clause would, at a later stage, even in another place, make clear what was the exact meaning of the sub-section. He did not think that they ought to rest satisfied with the words suggested by the deputation, his own impression being that they had not yet discovered a really desirable form of words. What he wished to impress upon the Government was that this point should be reconsidered, so that all ambiguity might be removed by the time the Bill passed.

*Mr. FENWICK asked whether the Government intended to accept this Amendment? The Colonial Secretary had certainly seemed to argue against the expediency of proceeding with the Amendment, and the right hon. Gentleman's reasons for advocating its withdrawal seemed to him to be very satisfactory and conclusive. If the Amendment of the hon. Member for St. Helens were adopted the Bill would not be improved. The effect of the Amendment would be to widen the operation of the sub-section and so to make it more objectionable. There were many special rules in mines which were not strictly enforced. For example, to ride in or out on a sett was a violation of a special rule, but in a large number of collieries it was done every day, and the practice was connived at by the managers and employers. If the Amendment were adopted it would be a direction to the arbitrator to treat such cases as wilful misconduct. He agreed with the Colonial Secretary that it was best to leave it to the arbitrator to say in any case coming before him whether a violation of a special rule or a technical violation of a minor point occurring in an Act of Parliament did or did not constitute wilful or serious misconduct.

*SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY thought that it had already been made quite clear that the Government did not think that this Amendment could be usefully inserted in the Bill. The object of the hon. Member for St. Helens was, in the opinion of the Government, already sufficiently provided for. He agreed that it would be dangerous to introduce a hard and fast line, and to prevent an arbitrator from giving compensation in any cases where there had been a breach of rules, including cases where the rule had been disregarded for some years because it had not been found absolutely necessary for the safety of the workmen in the mine. The Amendment of his hon. Friend would do much more than its framer intended. The House, he believed, was of opinion that a deliberate breach of rules understood to be for the safety of the men and regularly enforced would constitute serious and wilful misconduct. If, however, his hon. Friend would withdraw his Amendment the Government would be quite prepared to consider the matter further. But they could not assent to the Amendment and did not believe that there was any real necessity for introducing such words. They held that it would be best to leave it to the arbitrator to say whether in any given case there had been such a breach of the rules as constituted wilful misconduct.

MR. STUART-WORTLEY (Sheffield, Hallam) said that his acquaintance with industries where the accident pay ranged very high led him to believe that the question of a workman's own responsibility for an injury frequently caused feelings of soreness. He feared that unless something was done in the direction contemplated by the Amendment, cases would arise in which employers would smart under a sense of injustice, with the result that there would be irritation as between employers and employed. He favoured the Amendment because he feared that the words in the Bill, if unamended, would have no effect at all, owing to the construction that would probably be put upon them by the Courts. The construction of the Courts would probably be that not only must an injury have been done solely by the negligence of the workman, but that the negligence must have been serious as well as wilful, and such as was likely to result in injury. The only serious objection to the Amendment was that the breach of some of these rules was acquiesced in by the employers. He was glad to have heard from the Home Secretary that the door was not closed against a further consideration of the points raised by the Amendment.

MR. PHILIP STANHOPE (Burnley) hoped the Amendment would be withdrawn. The hon. Member for St. Helens, in attempting to introduce qualifying words, was really doing a disservice to the employers, because his Amendment would increase the possibilities of litigation, which the employers as well as the workmen desired to avoid. They knew that a deputation representing the employers in the textile industries had waited on the Colonial Secretary yesterday, but another deputation representing the workmen in those industries had also come to that House, and the members of that deputation expressed strong and emphatic opposition to this Amendment. He wished to compliment the Colonial Secretary on the impartial and judicial attitude which he had taken up on this subject. The right hon. Member's view of the case was, on the whole, very satisfactory. The opinion of the House must surely by that time be made up, and he hoped the Government would stand firm upon the matter.

MR. JAMES LOWTHER confessed he had some doubt whether the words proposed would carry the meaning which many of them desired to see embodied in the Statute. He could not follow the hon. Member for Burnley in urging the Government to adopt an attitude of resistance to all attempts to improve this clause, as he thought that would be a disastrous attitude to adopt. The insertion of some such words would, he thought, diminish incitements to carelessness and enforce proper discipline in the works, and a further consideration of the matter might be productive of advantage. He thought his hon. Friend would be well advised in accepting the suggestion of the Government.

*MR. ASCROFT said he was strongly opposed to the Amendment. It was utterly impossible for the cotton industry in Lancashire to exist, that is, for the employers to make a profit or for the workmen to find situations—unless they transgressed the Act of Parliament from Monday till Saturday in respect of cleaning machinery in motion. Unless that was done it was not possible to carry on the mills. There were rules, which the employers put up, that no young person, woman, or child was to clean machinery in motion, and that whoever was in charge would be held responsible. But there were at that moment, he was informed, representatives of over 200,000 textile operatives in the Strangers' Gallery, who had assured him that between five and six hours every week end would be required to keep the machinery clean and free from dust if the present practice was not allowed. He would read a paragraph from the letter of a gentleman of great authority, Mr. Thomas Ashton, the Secretary of the Spinners' Association of Oldham, with whom he had communicated on this subject.

*Mr. SPEAKER pointed out that the hon. Member had an Amendment on the Paper respecting the cleaning of machinery, and he would not be in order in discussing the matter in detail on that Amendment as well as on the present Amendment.

*Mr. ASCROFT said he would not repeat himself on the next Amendment. He had only one object, and that was to enable the industry with which he was connected to be carried on successfully and at the same time to give the workman who ran certain risks the opportunity of receiving compensation. The two alternatives were either that the workmen would refuse to undertake the risks without the right of compensation, or that the employer would be compelled to stop cleaning the machinery with the result that the industry could not be carried on.

Mr. GIBSON BOWLES said the argument of the hon. Member was that it was absolutely necessary for the cotton spinners to break Acts of Parliament every day.

Mr. SETON-KARR said the breaking of rules made by Act of Parliament would be considered to be serious and wilful misconduct.

Sir R. REID: Misconduct, whether serious or wilful, is another matter.

Mr. GIBSON BOWLES said it was necessary to clear up this clause. With regard to the construction put upon the rules, he pointed out that in five cases out of six there was no judge at all in the matter, it would be the amateur arbitrator who would have to expound it, and if there was a Judge he would be only a County Court Judge. He thought it was very desirable that the Act should be made extremely clear, inasmuch as it would have to be administered by persons without any experience of the law or knowledge of litigation, and as there was considerable doubt as to the effect of this paragraph he thought they should be very careful before they rejected the Amendment.

Mr. PARKER SMITH said that after listening to the discussion it seemed to him that the Government were wise in relying upon the simple words of the clause, while keeping an open mind in the future in regard to the matter. What employers desired was that where a rule was laid down for the safety of the workmen, and every precaution was taken to enforce that rule, then if a workman broke that rule and injuries resulted, he should be regarded as having "wilfully and seriously misconducted himself," and be excluded from the benefits of the Act. He understood that the Front Bench accepted that principle of law, and in the circumstances he thought his hon. Friend the mover of the Amendment should be satisfied with the result of the discussion.

*Mr. EMERSON BAINBRIDGE (Lincoln, Gainsborough) said there were two points in dispute in regard to the Amendment. One was whether the Amendment was reasonable and just, the other whether it would or would not promote litigation. When the mode in which the rules of mines were framed was understood, it would be admitted that there was absolute justice in the Amendment. The rules were of two kinds, general and special. The general rules were provided by Parliament; and the special rules were settled between the representatives of the men and the representatives of the owners, and it was therefore just to ask the workmen to adhere to rules agreed to by themselves. On the other hand, he thought the clause without the Amendment would lead to a great amount of litigation, and he therefore hoped the Government would accept the Amendment.

*MR. JOHN WILSON (Durham, Mid) pointed out in Committee the Colonial Secretary refused an Amendment proposing that employers should not be liable for compensation in cases of accidents arising from the non-observance of orders, on the ground that orders might be framed with a view to avoiding responsibility under the Act. He therefore thought he had a right to ask whether the Home Secretary, who had said he was prepared to reconsider the matter, intended subsequently to enlarge the sub-section.

*SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY said the hon. Member had misunderstood him. What he had said was that the supporter of the Amendment would see on a reconsideration of the question, that the object they wanted to attain was already attained by the Bill; but that if they, after reconsideration, remained of the same mind, he would not absolutely close the door to an Amendment of the sub-section.

MR. SETON-KARR asked for the opinion of the Attorney General on the point.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL said that nothing would be gained by the insertion of the proposed Amendment. The point in dispute was really covered by the words of the clause.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*MR. ASCROFT moved, at the end of paragraph (*c*), Sub-section (2), to insert:

"but a workman shall not be disentitled to compensation if the accident is solely attributable to the workman disobeying a rule respecting the cleaning of machinery whilst in motion, and such cleaning has been systematically allowed by the employer."

He read an extract from a letter sent him by Mr. Thomas Ashton, Secretary of the Spinners' Association, Oldham, which showed that though there was a rule against the cleaning of machinery in motion, such cleaning was allowed by employers in most mills. He wanted to secure by his Amendment that if an accident happened, in the course of the cleaning in those cases, the employer should not be able to escape the law by pointing to the rule.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN hoped the hon. Gentleman would not press the Amendment. He did not say it was out of order as the Speaker had put it; but it would make nonsense of the original clause as it stood; and must have been intended as an Amendment to the Amendment of the hon. Member for St. Helens, in case that Amendment had been accepted and inserted in the Bill.

*MR. ASCROFT asked for the opinion of the Attorney General on the point.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL said the cleaning of machinery in motion was in some cases attended with no danger, and in other cases was attended with great danger; and as there were rules regulating both cases, the matter was for the arbitrator to decide.

*MR. ASCROFT said that as the matter was to be left to the arbitrator he must divide the House on his Amendment.

Amendment negatived.

MR. REGINALD MCKENNA (Monmouth, N.) moved in Sub-section (3) after the words "If any question arises," to insert the words, "in any proceedings under this Act."

Amendment agreed to.

*SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY moved in Sub-section (3) to leave out the words,

"whether the injury was caused by the personal negligence or wilful act of the employer, or of any person for whose act or default the employer is responsible, or whether the injury was caused by accident arising out of and in the course of the employment of the workman injured, or whether the accident was solely attributable to the serious and wilful misconduct of the workman in respect of whose injuries compensation is claimed."

and to insert the words,

"The liability to compensation under this Act (includes any question as to whether the employment is one to which this Act applies)."

Amendment agreed to.

*SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY moved in Sub-section (3) to leave out the words, "or otherwise as to the liability for compensation under this Act."

Amendment agreed to.

*Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY moved in Sub-section (3) to leave out the words, "and any question as to whether the employment is one to which this Act applies."

Amendment agreed to.

Sir J. JOICEY moved after the words "Schedule to this Act," to insert in Sub-section (3):—

"It shall be lawful for the employer at any time to substitute for his liability under this Act the engagement or guarantee of an insurance corporation or association, previously approved by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, and on such Secretary of State certifying that he is satisfied as to the sufficiency of the engagement or guarantee of such corporation or association, and that it has undertaken the liability of the employer, any liability of the employer under this Act so undertaken shall thereupon cease."

He gathered during the Committee stage of the Bill that the Government were disposed to consider the question involved in this Amendment. He recognised that since the right to compute payments had been inserted in the Bill, the Amendment was not quite so important; but, nevertheless, he thought it was still very desirable. He was desirous that the Amendment should be accepted, as it would encourage the formation of insurance associations in various districts throughout the country, which would undoubtedly be of great benefit both to the employers and their workmen, and give the latter a much better security than they possessed by simply trusting to the employer. It was quite possible that many employers would have to pay compensation under the Bill. Some of them had very little means, and might not at all times be able to meet heavy claims that might be made against them. In the event of their having insured their liability with a company or with a mutual insurance association, the security of the workman would be strengthened to a very large extent. Such a system would not only benefit the workman, but it would benefit the employer as well. For instance, suppose an employer died and it became necessary, in order to wind up the estate, that his successor should get rid of or provide for all liability in connection with the estate, then this Amendment would enable him to make some arrangement for getting rid of his liability either by insurance with a mutual insurance association or in some other way, instead of carrying on the liability indefinitely. He believed it was the opinion of the Home Secretary that this Amendment threw some responsibility upon the State, but that responsibility was certainly not of a very serious character. All the right hon. Gentleman would be required to do would be simply to satisfy himself before the mutual insurance association was accepted, that it was of a solvent character. This could be ascertained by the Home Secretary or some official or department that would have an opportunity of fully considering the matter. The adoption of such an Amendment would prevent the substitution of any bogus corporation, and would benefit both employer and employed. Surely it was a reasonable thing, so far as the employer was concerned, if he had to pay compensation, that he should be able to get rid of his liability by making some arrangement with a great insurance association, and he therefore hoped the Government would favourably consider the Amendment.

*Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY observed that the hon. Gentleman proposed or supported an Amendment of this description when the Bill was in Committee, and expressed some indignation with him then because, on the part of the Government, he could not accord it that favourable reception which the hon. Member appeared to have anticipated. He thought that at the present moment there was still less necessity for this clause. The hon. Gentleman said it was one of the objects of the proposal to encourage insurance, and that it would be very satisfactory, not only to employers but to workmen, to know that the insurance associations throughout the whole country were on a stable basis, so that there was an absolute certainty that any compensation for which the employers were liable and for which they had insured would be paid. He admitted all that, but at the same time the hon. Gentleman asked the House to accept a clause which threw upon the Government the duty of certifying that any particular insurance company was perfectly solvent, and would fulfil the obligations specified in the clause. That was enlarging the scope and operations of the Bill to a dangerous extent, and was putting upon the Government duties which they could hardly be expected to perform. Provisions had been inserted by Amendment in Committee with regard to commutation which rendered this Amendment less necessary than ever, and the Government could not, therefore, accept it.

Amendment negatived.

*Mr. JOHN WILSON (Falkirk Burghs) moved, in Sub-section (3), after the words "as soon as practicable," to insert the words, "and not more than six weeks." The object of the Amendment, he explained, was to fix some precise time for the notice of the accident being lodged. He thought the words "as soon as practicable" were extremely vague, and likely to lead to litigation, and that the addition of the words he proposed was very desirable, not only in the interests of the employers, but also, and still more so, in the interests of the employed. For instance, in the case of a coal mine, an accident might happen all traces of which would disappear in the course of a few months, so that the miner could have no possible proof of how the accident happened. An accident might happen in a road into the coal face, and in less than six weeks the coal would be worked out and the road abandoned and fallen, and all trace destroyed of the accident. This involved no question of principle, and he thought the Government would do well to accept these words. He had the same Amendment on the Paper in the Committee stage, and the Colonial Secretary did him the honour to accept it, but at a subsequent stage he rather repudiated the engagement, and accepted an Amendment of an hon. Member on the other side of the House. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman, on reconsideration, would see that these words were much more definite and likely to improve the Bill than those which he accepted.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN admitted that this Amendment would make the provision more definite, and therefore it was the less acceptable, because they were dealing with indefinite circumstances. It would be perfectly unfair to say that a man must give notice within six weeks. Circumstances might arise when it would not be practicable to give notice within six weeks. He would point out to the hon. Member that the words which had been accepted were the result of a very lengthened Debate in Committee, and were practically the result of a compromise between the different suggestions. He believed now, after full consideration, that they were thoroughly satisfactory, and met the circumstances of the case.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. PARKER SMITH moved, in Sub-section (3), after the words, "after the happening thereof," to insert the words, "and before the workman has left the employment." He thought that was a very important element in the consideration of the question when the notice ought to be given. It was quite obvious that if notice was not given until after the workman had left the employment and gone to work for somebody else, it would be impossible for the employer to know whether the accident really happened during the time the workman was in his employment, or whether it happened outside and a fictitious claim was being made upon him as the most likely subject from whom to recover some damages. Of course there would be the safeguarding proviso as to the employer not being prejudiced by want of notice and as to the want of notice being accidental.

Sir R. REID hoped that the Government would not accept the Amendment. The words would make it possible for an injured workman to be deprived of compensation although he had given notice as soon as practicable. The employer might dismiss the man.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN said that there was a difficulty which ought to be met if possible. But it was only desired to meet the case of a voluntary change of employment by the workman, and not the case of dismissal by the employer. He suggested that the hon. Member should insert the word "voluntarily" before "changed his employment" in the Amendment.

*Mr. J. WILSON (Durham, Mid) put the case of a man who had given notice to leave his employment and was injured the day before the notice expired. How would that case be affected by the Amendment? This part of the Bill, as it stood, was the result of a compromise between the different interests, and it ought not to be changed.

SIR J. JOICEY said that he agreed that on this point a compromise had been arrived at with the approval of the Government, and therefore he must oppose the Amendment.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN moved to amend the Amendment by inserting the word "voluntarily."

Amendment amended, by inserting after the word "has" the word "voluntarily."

MR. H. H. ASQUITH (Fife, E.) regretted that the Government had given any countenance to this Amendment. The clause in its present shape represented a compromise between the different interests concerned; and it was most unwise to reopen the question for such a trivial matter as the Amendment would guard against. He could not see any substantial danger to be obviated. There was already sufficient safeguard against fraudulent claims. If the words were introduced a thorny legal question would be raised, which would lead to all sorts of technical points being urged against the workman's claim.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL said that this was not a trivial matter. Representations had been made to him by employers who would be seriously affected by the Bill. He knew that already there had been great difficulty in cases of workmen who had left their employment without giving notice of accident. After all, it was only notice that was required. The right hon. Gentleman said thorny questions of law would be raised by the Amendment, but it would tax even his ingenuity to raise a thorny legal question out of this very simple matter. If a workman voluntarily changed his employment it was not asking too much that he should be required to give notice if on a certain day before leaving his employment an accident occurred which might lead to consequences upon which a claim would be made.

MR. HALDANE thought it was not worth while to re-open this thorny question upon which there was so much discussion in Committee. He reminded the Home Secretary of what passed when this clause was accepted in Committee. The question was raised by hon. Members below the Gangway, and he, knowing something of the matter, gave what assistance he could in drafting the Amendment, and that in consultation with representatives of coal owners was agreed to, and afterwards moved in the House by the hon. Member for Gainsborough, and accepted by the Home Secretary as satisfactory. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would not now depart from an agreement arrived at after considerable trouble.

MR. STUART-WORTLEY said the considerations which led hon. Members to oppose the Amendment did not prevent them earlier in the evening supporting an Amendment in relation to a matter upon which there was quite as much agreement in Committee as in the present instance. ["No!"] He spoke of matters within his own knowledge. Hon. Gentlemen were then ready to reverse an arrangement arrived at after full deliberation.

*MR. FENWICK could not admit that the cases were parallel. In the case referred to by the hon. Member, there was not an accepted compromise such as this was. This was an arrangement arrived at after conference outside of the House between representatives of workmen and employers, and afterwards approved by the Committee.

MR. RENSHAW said there were other interests to serve besides those of colliery proprietors, and this Amendment he considered a valuable addition for both employers and workmen in factories. Factory hands often changed their employment and it was only right there should be some check on a workman so that he should not, long after he had left an employer, send in a claim for compensation for an injury of which he gave no notice at the time it occurred.

MR. B. PICKARD (York, W.R., Normanton) desired to hear from the Home Secretary his version of the arrangement. Was it not the case that when this matter had been long in Debate in the House, and there seemed no likelihood of coming to a settlement, there was a conference in the Lobby between the parties, and as the result the hon. Member for Gainsborough proposed words which were accepted by the Government? How could a departure from that settlement be justified?

MR. JAMES LOWTHER protested against the supposition that representatives of any one class of industry even after consultation with other branches could bind the House to the acceptance of a particular proposal. The Government he thought had made a wise concession, and he hoped they would adhere to it.

*SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY said his recollection was that, after the subject had been discussed for a day in Committee, when the House met on the next day, which if he remembered rightly was Wednesday, he was informed through the usual channels that an arrangement, compromise, or settlement had been arrived at amongst those who had been very active in the discussion as representing employers on the one hand and workmen on the other; he did not know that they were confined to the coal industry, and that an Amendment was going to be proposed. That was subsequently proposed by the hon. Member for Gainsborough, and as it appeared to the Government to be reasonable it was accepted. Of course that did not bind the action of the House, nor did he think this addition would upset the settlement. This related to a new question which had not been raised when the settlement was arranged. He did not think that in accepting the present proposition the Government were committing any breach of engagement.

Question put, "That the words 'and before the workman has voluntarily left the employment' be there inserted."

The House divided:—Ayes, 196; Noes, 121.—(Division List, No. 271.)

MR. G. W. WOLFF (Belfast, E.) moved in Sub-section (3) to leave out the word "twelve" ("twelve months") and to insert the word "six." He failed to see why six months notice should be deemed sufficient in case of injury and twelve months in case of death. The latter time was too long and would lead to great litigation. It was not right to have uncertainty hanging over the employers so long, nor was it good for the workpeople themselves.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN said that, in the absence of any agreement outside the House or in the Lobby which bound the House and the Government, he thought this Amendment was a perfectly reasonable one. He should think it was a slip which made the terms of notice in case of death different from the terms of notice in case of injury. He could see no reason for making the notice different in the one case than in the other, and, therefore, apart from any question of agreement, he saw no objection to the Amendment.

*MR. JOHN WILSON (Durham, Mid) said the Government had accepted the words "twelve months from the time of death." Those words had been adopted as the result of a compromise which was arrived at between the employers and the representatives of labour, and he believed they embodied the general consensus of all employers in the House. He objected to the Government now going back from their acceptance of those words.

MR. AUGUSTINE BIRRELL (Fife, W.) pointed out that in case of death time had to be allowed for the representation of some person who was qualified to pursue the claim. That was the reason why a distinction was drawn between a case of injury and a case of death.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: But six months is the time within which letters of administration must be taken out.

MR. STUART-WORTLEY pointed out that in case of death an element of uncertainty was removed as to whether the injury really resulted from the accident Six months was allowed in case of injury because the effects might not develop until some time afterwards. In the case of death there was no room for such uncertainty.

MR. S. WOODS (Essex, Walthamstow) said the clause as it stood in the Bill was the result of a compromise between the employers of labour and the working-men representatives in that House, which it took nearly a week to effect, and which was accepted on behalf of the Government by the Home Secretary. That being so, he could not for the life of him understand why the Government should be departing from pledges and promises and understandings which were made and arrived at in the Committee stage. He hoped that in these circumstances the Government would reconsider their position and would not accept the Amendment now moved.

MR. RENSHAW protested against the doctrine that that House was to be bound by any meeting such was held by Members outside that House, and which induced the Government to accept the Amendments as a ready means of getting forward their Measure. He thought this Amendment was an eminently reasonable one. It must be in the interests of all parties that these claims should be made as soon as possible, that they should be finally settled. There should be no reason why compensation in the case of death should be delayed for so long a period as 12 months.

MR. HALDANE thought the reason why twelve months was adopted was a technical one. Lord Campbell's Act, by the analogy of which these actions were brought, gave action in the first instance to the personal representatives. These personal representatives had six months in which to bring the action. If they did not do so within the six months, then the Act gave the action to the defendants, and in that case it was necessary that a further period should be allowed. He had no doubt the analogy of Lord Campbell's Act was in the mind of the draughtsman and made him put in an extra six months in the case of death.

MR. W. E. M. TOMLINSON (Preston) was understood to support the Amendment.

Question put, "That the word 'twelve,' stand part of the Bill."

The House divided :—Ayes, 84; Noes, 158.—(Division List, No. 272).

Word "six" inserted.

MR. HARRY FOSTER (Suffolk, Lowestoft) moved, in Sub-section (3), to leave out the words,—

"Provided always that the want of such notice shall not be a bar to the maintenance of such proceedings if it is found in the proceedings for settling the claim that the employer is not prejudiced in his defence by the absence of such notice, or that such absence was occasioned by mistake or other reasonable cause."

Mr. S. Woods.

The Amendment was, he said, in the same direction as that which had just been decided. The provisions that the claim should be lodged within six months of the accident, and, in the event of death, payment to the workman's representatives was to be made within six months of the death, were practically abrogated by the provision which he desired to omit, and which seemed to be part of a sacred compromise. A man, without having given notice of any accident, without having lodged a claim, might, two, three, or five years afterwards, launch the employer into the whole of the proceedings under this Bill. There was nothing to stop it, and the employer *in limine* could not lodge an objection. An inquiry must be solemnly held, and in the course of it the employer was asked to show, perhaps five years afterwards, that he had been prejudiced by the claim. He did not know what kind of evidence he would be required to give. It had been said that the Bill would throw a heavy liability on employers, and the answer was that the employers could cover themselves by insurance. But it was clear that if the risk under an insurance policy was one which could not be determined for certainty within any period, then the rate of premium which the insurance company would demand would be much heavier than if the risk ran off in a limited period. He could not understand on what ground the employer was to be subjected to the worry of an action under the Bill if the reasonable time allowed by it had expired without proper notice having been given. If a man had not given notice and lodged his claim, the employer must be prejudiced by the lapse of time, because he was less able to meet the evidence. He had been told on the responsible authority of insurance offices that the existence of this proviso would increase the risk of the employer, and thereby increase the premium which the employer would have to pay.

*SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY said that if he were to accept the Amendment, the Government would be violating the very sensible agreement which had been entered into. The proposal in the Bill was not an unreasonable one.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. ASCROFT moved, in Sub-section (3), to leave out the words, "employer is not prejudiced in his defence by the absence of such notice," and to insert the words,—

"omission to give such notice did not arise from any intention to prejudice the employer in his defence."

He said that the object of the Amendment was to prevent an innocent workman who had been injured from being deprived of the right of compensation through not giving notice "as soon as practicable." This phrase might be construed by an arbitrator to mean the day, or the day following, the accident. If, in accordance with the Bill as at present drawn, by any oversight of the workman notice was not given "as soon as practicable," and in the meantime the employer was prejudiced in his defence, then the workman lost his right. Between the time when the workman gave notice and the time of inquiry the roof of the building might have fallen, and the state of the place where the accident happened might be entirely changed. The question might then arise as to whether the workman had used the prop which ought to have been used, and the employer might not be able to ascertain whether the workman had used it. The consequence would be that the workman would be placed in this position—the employer having been prejudiced in his defence, the workman would have no right to compensation. His Amendment was designed to get rid of the unfair position of the workman.

*SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY: feared that the remarks he used with reference to the last Amendment were as applicable to this. He could not accept this Amendment.

Amendment negatived.

*SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY moved, in Sub-section (3), to leave out the word "absence" ("absence of such notice"), and to insert the word "want."

Amendment agreed to.

*SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY moved, in Sub-section (3), to leave out the word "absence" ("such absence"), and to insert the word "want."

Amendment agreed to.

*SIR JOHN BRUNNER (Cheshire, Northwich) moved, in Sub-section (3), to leave out the words,—

"notices shall be served in the manner provided for by the Employers' Liability Act 1880, Section seven,"

And to insert the actual words of Section 7 of the Act of 1880, as follows:—

"Notice in respect of an injury under this Act shall give the name and address of the person injured, and shall state in ordinary language the cause of the injury and the date at which it was sustained, and shall be served on the employer, or, if there is more than one employer, upon one of such employers.

"The notice may be served by delivering the same to or at the residence or place of business of the person on whom it is to be served.

"The notice may also be served by post by a registered letter addressed to the person on whom it is to be served at his last known place of residence or place of business, and if served by post shall be deemed to have been served at the time when a letter containing the same would have been delivered in the ordinary course of post, and in proving the service of such notice it shall be sufficient to prove that the notice was properly addressed and registered.

"Where the employer is a body of persons corporate or unincorporate the notice shall be served by delivering the same at or by sending it by post in a registered letter addressed to the office, or if there be more than one office, any one of the offices of such body.

"A notice under this section shall not be deemed invalid by reason of any defect or inaccuracy therein, unless the judge who tries the action arising from the injury mentioned in the notice shall be of opinion that the defendant in the action is prejudiced in his defence by such defect or inaccuracy, and that the defect or inaccuracy was misleading."

Agreed to.

Amendment made, Sub-section (4), to leave out the word "ascertaining," and to insert the words "taking steps to ascertain."—(*Sir Matthew White Ridley.*)

MR. J. SAMUEL (Stockton) said that he had been asked by his hon. Friend the Member for the Tyneside Division (Mr. Joseph A. Pease) to move the Amendment which stood in his name, namely, in Sub-section (4), after the word "certifies," to insert the words "with the approval of a Secretary of State." In Committee the Home Secretary promised that the Government would consider this Amendment. The hon. Member for the Tyneside Division was very anxious that the schemes under the Bill should have the approval of the

Secretary of State, and he would be glad to learn that the Home Secretary agreed with his Amendment.

*Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY said it was quite true that in Committee he undertook to consider whether the Registrar of Friendly Societies could be brought into some relationship with the Home Office. Having given the best consideration to the subject, he did not see that any advantage would be gained by requesting the Secretary of State to look over all the schemes again. The Home Office had not the actuarial or other knowledge to fit them for the purpose. They might, he thought, put every confidence in the Registrar of Friendly Societies.

Amendment, by leave withdrawn.

Amendment made, in Sub-section (4) after the word "workmen," to insert the words "of an employer."—*(Sir Matthew White Ridley).*

*Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY moved, in Sub-section (4), after the word "Act" ("commencement of this Act") to insert: "The Registrar may give a certificate to expire at the end of a limited period not less than five years."

*Sir C. DILKE said it was quite right that the Registrar should give a limited period, but why should he be tied up to "not less than five years."

The ATTORNEY GENERAL said it was quite obvious that some words were necessary. The Registrar having regard to what his information and obligation would be, and also to the fact that he wished to have a period within which he must review his decision, himself suggested that the period should be five years.

Amendment agreed to.

On the return of Mr. Speaker after the usual interval,

Mr. WOODS moved in Sub-section (4), after the words "condition of their hiring" to insert:—

> "No scheme shall be so certified unless the said scheme has been approved of, as ascertained by ballot vote of a majority of the workmen under that employer, and under rules made by the Registrar as to how, when, and where the said ballot vote should be taken."

Mr. J. Samuel.

He hoped the Government would accept the Amendment, which he believed would make the scheme satisfactory.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL assured the hon. Member that since this question was discussed in Committee his right hon. Friends the Home Secretary and the Colonial Secretary and himself had carefully considered it, and they had been in communication with the Registrar of Friendly Secieties on the subject, and every means would be taken to ascertain in the best possible way the feelings of the workmen on any particular scheme. After full consideration, and with every desire to meet the reasonable wishes of hon. Gentlemen opposite, it was impossible for the Government to accept this Amendment. He could not help thinking that the hon. Member who had moved it had not sufficiently applied his mind to the difficulties in the way. Some principle must be laid down, and was it to be that the workmen of to-day were to bind the workmen of the future?

Mr. WOODS said that under the Mines Regulation Act, 1887, ballots had been taken on the appointment of check-weighers, and the result of the ballots lasted for seven years, although the workmen were constantly changing.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL said that that was an entirely different matter. Those ballots were held merely for the purpose of electing a check-weigher; but was a workman who was going to leave his employment to-morrow to control the rights and liabilities of the parties to the scheme who came after him? There would be no reason why, if the registrar thought it right that the wishes of the workmen should be ascertained in this particular way, that course should not be adopted; but the Government submitted that a compulsory ballot would be quite unworkable. The Government looked at this question from the practical point of view, and they felt that to impose a compulsory ballot would be to create a difficulty in the establishment of useful schemes, and would render the clause practically of no effect. The Government wished to make these schemes easy to work, and they honestly believed—and their opinion was shared by the responsible official to whom he had referred—that it would be against the interest both of the workmen and the employers to impose a compulsory ballot. The constituency was an inappropriate one for the purpose, consisting as it did of men, women, and boys, and continually shifting from day to day.

*MR. JOHN WILSON (Durham, Mid) said that the Attorney General met the analogy of the appointment of a check-weigher by the objection that a vote ascertained by ballot in a continually changing constituency would be binding on futurity. It so happened that if the registrar sanctioned any scheme to-day with the consent of the workmen or of a portion of the workmen there engaged, that scheme would bind the workmen coming after unless the scheme were revoked. He thought therefore the Attorney General would see that the analogy of the appointment of a check-weigher was exactly correct, because by a certain majority of the workmen a check-weigher was appointed and he acted as check-weigher for future workmen. If the Attorney General could show that a scheme accepted by a majority of the workmen or by the entire body of them would not bind workmen who came after them, the analogy would fall to the ground, but where a scheme of this kind was sanctioned it would bind the workmen for all futurity. He submitted that something in the nature of the Amendment was necessary in order to carry out the intention of the Bill. Sub-section 4 of Clause 1 declared that if the registrar, after ascertaining the views of the employers and workmen, certified that any scheme was on the whole not less favourable, etc. Would the Attorney General show the House how the views of the workmen were to be ascertained? How could Sub-section 4 be carried out unless it was by a vote? Then Sub-section 6, which dealt with the revocation of a scheme, provided that if any workmen or their representatives should submit to the registrar *primâ facie* evidence that the provisions of any scheme were no longer so favourable to the workmen as the provisions of the Act, he should, unless the cause of complaint were removed, revoke his certificate. In his opinion it was necessary, and more necessary in view of the Amendment placed on the Paper by the Home Secretary, that some machinery should be set on foot for ascertaining the desire of the workmen. The Amendment suggested by the Home Secretary was that "if complaint is made to the said registrar by or on behalf of the workmen." Those words would no doubt be accepted by the House and again he put his question to the Attorney General, would he tell the House how anyone who acted on behalf of the workmen was to ascertain the desire of the workmen? He submitted that his hon. Friend's Amendment met the position taken up by the Attorney General on every point. It met him on the point of futurity, for every scheme under the Bill would do the very thing the hon. and learned Gentleman seemed to fear. In Committee the Colonial Secretary said that after consultation with hon. Members he hoped to discover words which would meet the difficulty which was apprehended. Was that pledge given merely to be broken? Was the right hon. Gentleman more amenable to the rhetorical influence of a deputation of employers than to the arguments of mild-mannered men like the workmen's representatives in that House? They had waited patiently to hear what form of words the Secretary for the Colonies was going to propose, but they had waited in vain. Unless the Amendment or something of the same nature were introduced into the Bill there would inevitably be irritation.

*MR. J. WILSON (Falkirk Burghs) saw nothing unreasonable in the Amendment, for he held that there must be some machinery to enable the views of the workmen to be ascertained clearly and decisively. The like means for ascertaining the wishes of the workmen were in force and constantly used in connection with appointment of check weighers at collieries. He hoped the Government would accept the Amendment.

MR. TOMLINSON regretted that no machinery had been devised by the Government for ascertaining the wishes of the workmen. In Committee he had voted with hon. Members who had suggested that procedure by ballot would be a good way out of the difficulty. He had some doubt whether the Registrar of Friendly Societies would be the best adviser in questions of this kind. There might be cases in which employers would want to know the exact wishes of the workmen, and whether those wishes were shared by all of them How were the employers to ascertain the workmen's views? The point about the changing character of the constituency was not as substantial as some people might think. When a body of working men acquiesced in a particular arrangement it was unlikely that their views would be repudiated by their immediate successors.

MR. THOMAS BURT (Morpeth) was glad that the Amendment had received so much support on the other side of the House. It was a comparatively easy matter to ascertain the views of employers because they were few in number. To ascertain the views of the workmen was a more difficult matter, and the only practical way of doing so was by the ballot. Many of the objections urged that evening by the Attorney General against the Amendment were urged against the proposal to ascertain the views of the workmen by ballot when the Mines Regulation Act of 1887 was under discussion in that House. He believed the Attorney General that the Government desired to carry out the views of the workman. Practical difficulties would soon vanish if some scheme of the kind was adopted and embodied in the Bill. As the Government had the testimony of the employers and the representatives of the workman in the mining industry that the provision had worked exceedingly well, he hoped the Government would accept the proposal before the House, or formulate some provision of their own to meet the necessities of the case. ["Hear, hear!"]

MR. GIBSON BOWLES pointed out that the sub-section put the whole power of deciding into the hands of the Registrar General. That person must be a man of the most remarkable knowledge, discretion, and ability. He must be such an official as the world had never yet seen. [*Laughter.*] But that was the plan of the Government. [*Laughter, and* "Hear, hear!"] He was to ascertain the views of employers and employed. How could he? As he pleased. If he found he had no adequate means of ascertaining those views he had to guess them. [*Laughter.*] The plan that the views of the workmen should be ascertained by asking the workmen themselves was a plan entirely new to that proposed by the Government, and should have been substituted for it. He was pained to hear it imputed that the Colonial Secretary had been guilty of a breach of faith. That was a thing of which the Colonial Secretary was incapable. He expected the hon. Member for Bordesley would have got up and defended him.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. JESSE COLLINGS, Birmingham, Bordesley): It is quite unnecessary.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES did not agree. When a direct charge was made against a Member in his absence one of his friends should get up and defend him. [*Laughter.*]

*MR. SPEAKER: The discussion of this alleged breach of faith is not relevant to the Amendment.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES said that if the matter were boldly left to the decision of the workmen it would be right to have a ballot of the workmen, but to make that a Court of Appeal from the decision of an omnipotent Registrar General seemed to him to be inappropriate. They should either have the ballot of the workmen or the Registrar General.

SIR J. JOICEY asked how the views of the workmen could be obtained better than by ballot. The miners of this country were constantly being balloted on some point or other. He did not like leaving the whole question to any Government officials. Such officials were generally animated by entirely different considerations from the general public. A Government official was generally a narrow-minded man who took very narrow views of important questions and he was not content to let a government official decide when a better means of deciding could be obtained. He was amazed that in the Bill the Registrar General of Friendly Societies should have to decide, and yet no method was adopted to guide him. The Government did not seem to understand the Bill, or what it was to accomplish. They did not seem to know their minds on any point in the Bill. They were constantly chopping and changing their views, and what the Bill would be like at the end of the discussion, he did not know. The amendment was accepted by employers and workmen, and yet the Government refused it. If the Government were not prepared to adopt the scheme of the hon. Member for Walthamstow let them bring forward one of their own. Whatever they did he hoped they would not leave the matter in the hands of a Government official with nothing whatever to guide him.

MR. J. M. PAULTON (Durham, Bishop Auckland) hoped the Home Secretary would tell the House how the Registrar General of Friendly Societies was to ascertain the views of the workmen. He believed the amendment was inserted at the request of that official, who evidently had the foresight to see he had under the Bill, to perform a task which he had no means of performing either to his own satisfaction or that of the parties concerned. As to the meaning of the words, "take steps to ascertain," the Registrar might merely go to a colliery or works and inquire of one or two of the workmen what their view was.

*SIR ALFRED HICKMAN (Wolverhampton, W.) said he was one of those who believed in the advantages of friendly arrangements between workmen and employers—["hear, hear!"]—and he was opposed to anything which would place obstructions in the way of such arrangements. He was willing to accept the ballot of the workmen or the certificate of the Registrar, but he was of opinion that they should have either the one or the other and not both.

MR. W. S. ROBSON (South Shields) said this Amendment appeared to him to raise a very important question, and if the words in the Bill for ascertaining the opinion of the workmen were merely intended to smooth the passage of the Measure, and not to be of any value in actual working, he could understand the attitude of the Government. If, however, they really intended that the opinion of the workmen should have an efficient influence on the opinion of the Registrar of Friendly Societies they were bound to have some effective means by which that opinion should be ascertained. The argument that the constituency would be a changing one was no argument against taking its opinion. With reference to the power which it was proposed to give to the Registrar of Friendly Societies, he would point out that the enlarged discretion continually conferred on the permanent officials of this country was a growing danger, which became more and more apparent in every Bill introduced by the Government. ["Hear, hear!"] They were rapidly approching a state of things in which the main administrative power and a large part of the legislative power of the country would rest with the permanent officials, and they ought to protest against it.

*SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY, regretted that he had not had the advantage of listening to the whole of the Debate, but he had heard the very extraordinary speech of the hon. and learned Member—a speech which had caused him considerable surprise. That an able Government official like the Registrar of Friendly Societies was the person to judge actuarially and impartially of the merits of the case had, he thought, been already accepted by the House. He understood the proposal was for a compulsory ballot of the workmen. He did not think that was a reasonable proposal. If he had himself to deal with a scheme, he should unquestionably approach the workmen and the employers to ascertain their opinions.

*MR. J. WILSON (Durham, Mid): How would you ascertain them?

*SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY said he should almost as a matter of course ask for a ballot of the workmen exactly as was here proposed. [*Opposition cheers.*] He did not object to anything of the sort, and he believed it was the opinion of the Registrar of Friendly Societies that in most cases it would be desirable to take a ballot. But there were other means by which the Registrar could satisfy himself as to the real opinion of those concerned. It was quite conceivable that there might be connected with some business a large and powerful Trade Union such as was represented by the hon Member for Mid Durham or the hon. Member for the Wansbeck Division. Was he to be told that it was necessary for the Registrar to take a ballot in such circumstances, instead of taking the opinion of the representatives of the Trade Union? There were many such cases, although in the majority of cases the Registrar might ask for a ballot. He would remind the House that this Bill expressly stated that no scheme should be certified which contained an obligation on the workmen to join the scheme as a condition of their hiring. It was quite conceivable also that there might be a scheme which affected a part only and not the whole of the workmen. The Registrar of Friendly Societies was the most impartial and able officer the Government could select to judge of any schemes which were proposed.

*MR. FENWICK said he believed the Home Secretary was of such a practical turn of mind that if the sanction of these schemes rested with him whenever a difficulty arose he would insist on a ballot being taken. He could not see that any reasonable objection could be taken to the principle of a compulsory ballot. He ventured to say that all the schemes for setting aside the provisions of the Act would be set in motion by employers. Therefore it was necessary to secure that the views of the workmen in regard to those schemes were completely and accurately ascertained, and that could only be done by ballot. He would also point out that when once a scheme was adopted it would bind all workmen entering the particular employment to which the scheme applied in future years. A scheme might, for instance, be adopted by 500 workmen, and in the course of a few years the industry might so develop that 1,500 workmen would be employed, and the thousand additional men would be bound by a scheme, in the framing of which they had no voice whatever. [*Cries of* "No, no!"] Would the Attorney General tell him then where it was provided otherwise?

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: It is provided otherwise by the words of the Bill.

MR. HEYWOOD JOHNSTONE (Sussex, Horsham) said the hon. Member who had just sat down was entirely mistaken in his view of the provision in the Bill. It did not in the slightest degree bind any workman to enter into a contract with the employer; so far from that the words of the clause expressly provided that should not in any case be a condition of employment. Under these circumstances the case put by an hon. Member of a workman subsequently coming into some employment and finding himself bound by the result of a scheme already sanctioned by the Registrar of Friendly Societies, could not possibly arise. If it could, he was bound to say he thought much might be said for the Amendment. But as it could never arise, as the workman was not bound to accept or come within the four corners of any such scheme, he did not think there was any occasion for the Amendment at all. They had been told by the Home Secretary that if the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies were at all in doubt as to the views entertained by the workmen, he had power to take a ballot to ascertain their views. Again, as the Home Secretary had truly pointed out, the workmen in all these large industrial undertakings was as a rule represented more or less fully and truthfully by their Trades Union, and surely the Trades Union would have the opportunity of bringing before the Chief Registrar the views of the workmen employed. He was sure the Trades Unions would press upon the Chief Registrar the advisability and necessity of taking a ballot, if they felt any doubt as to what the opinion of the workmen was. He thought it was a most excellent system that all these schemes should be submitted to the Chief Registrar, not only for the reasons already given from the Front Bench, but also because it was the only way to insure anything like uniformity of practice and uniformity of principle in framing and sanctioning these schemes. The Chief Registrar would no doubt be able to suggest where these schemes might be improved by Amendment. He could not help thinking in a matter of this sort employers and employed would seek not so much their private and individual interest, but to come to an agreement which would be useful to both parties, and that the Chief Registrar would be able to suggest to them how to carry out a scheme which would be for the benefit of the employed, without pressing too heavily on the employers. ["Hear, hear!"]

MR. BRYN ROBERTS (Carnarvonshire, Eifion) said the Amendment provided that contracting-out under the Bill should be safeguarded by almost the identical safeguards which were proposed in connection with the contracting-out clauses of the Employers' Liability Bill of the late Liberal Government. An Amendment was moved to that Bill by which contracting-out was provided for subject only to a ballot of the workmen employed in the particular employment. That Amendment was supported by the entire Opposition, including the Members of the present Government; and it was rumoured that that proposal had the support of the present Home Secretary, but that the right hon. Gentleman was overborne by a stronger personality in the Cabinet. If that were so, he was surprised at the right hon. Gentleman's complete right-about-face in the matter. But the Home Secretary might say that there was inconsistency also on the Liberal Benches. For his part, he had always been in favour of contracting-out with this safeguard; and he was of the same opinion still. Hitherto, the doctrine of the Conservative Party was that the views of working men were not to be taken from the Trades Union leaders, who were merely officials, and that it was necessary to go to the working men at large. Now the House had the novel spectacle of seeing a Conservative Government urging that the views of the workmen should be derived from the Trades Union leaders, and the Trades Union leaders urging that those views should be ascertained from the men themselves.

Mr. JAMES LOWTHER hoped that Her Majesty's Government would leave the matter in the hands of the Registrar of Friendly Societies. He was surprised to hear the Home Secretary attach so much importance to the Trades Union delegates as representing the views of the working classes.

*Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY said that what he had said was that the Registrar of Friendly Societies would avail himself of every means for ascertaining the views of the workmen in regard to a particular scheme.

Mr. JAMES LOWTHER objected to the idea that Trade Union leaders were representatives of the working classes, and expressed the hope that the Registrar of Friendly Societies would, under no circumstances whatever, attach anything like supreme importance to their views.

Mr. PICKARD observed that the Home Secretary had practically admitted the contention that the workmen should be consulted and a ballot vote taken in order to inform the Registrar of Friendly Societies as to what he should do, but they had had no form of words suggested either from the Attorney General or the Home Secretary. That being so why would they not accept the amendment of the hon. Member for Walthamstow? The opposition from the Front Bench was either real or unreal. If the workmen were to have a voice in the schemes the Government should give the House some light and leading in the matter. He believed the colliery owners and employers of labour in the House during the Debate had accepted the Amendment and were quite willing it should be added to the Bill. He could not, therefore, understand why the Government refused either to give their own form of words or to accept the Amendment in its present form. The Registrar had to take steps to ascertain the views of the workmen and the Home Secretary said he was to go down to the works. He did not think the Government could contemplate that the Registrar should go down to the works and there obtain the views of the men. If the Registrar had the power given to him he could ascertain by a ballot vote what were the views of the workmen in the various workshops. When this matter was dicussed in Committee the Colonial Secretary undertook to consult with the Labour Members and assist them in framing words that would meet the case. No opposition had been made to the Amendment from any quarter, and he believed if the vote of the House could have been taken by hon. Members rising in their places, it would have been carried by a majority of three-fourths. When the subject was discussed in Committee, hon. Members on that side of the House felt thankful to the Colonial Secretary for the words he used on that occasion, and he trusted even now that the right hon. Gentleman would agree to the words that had been proposed, or suggest others that would carry out the object aimed at.

Mr. W. ABRAHAM (Rhondda) wished to remind the House of what the right hon. Gentleman, the Colonial Secretary, said on Thursday the 27th May, as reported in "The Parliamentary Debates."

> "He should try to find out words after consulting with hon. Members, which would meet the difficulty that they apprehended."

The clause which they were now endeavouring to control by the adoption of the words proposed, was the contracting-out clause. It was known that that clause provided the employers with means of contracting out, but it did not do the same for the workmen, and he was not a little surprised to hear the hon. Member for Preston say that he did not know any employer that would want to propose a scheme to contract himself out of the provisions of this Bill. All he would say was this: if the hon. Member were prepared to propose to eliminate this contracting-out clause from the Bill, every one of the Labour Members would be glad to support such a proposal. It was not from the Opposition side that the request to be allowed to contract out had come. It was well known that he and his Friends had done all they could to oppose contracting out. They knew, and hon. Members generally knew, that it would be from the employers that a contracting-out proposition would come [*Cries of* "No, no!"]. Nothing would please the working classes more than to find to-morrow morning that the Government had at last agreed to do away with the contracting-out clause. There would be shouts of joy all over the country: There might be some bonfires or a second Jubilee, as it were—[*a laugh*]—if the workmen found they were relieved of this terror. He asked the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary for the Colonies to fulfil his promise to meet the difficulty which was apprehended—to fulfil it by omitting from the Bill the contracting-out clause.

Question put, "That those words be there inserted."

The House divided:—Ayes, 108; Noes, 163.—(Division List, No. 273.)

Mr. ASCROFT moved to add in paragraph (*c*), after the word "hiring" the following words:—

"and no employer shall insist on a workman joining any scheme, or, as a condition of his joining any scheme, require him to withdraw from any friendly society, trade union, or workman's organisation."

The House had admitted the principle that an employer shall not have any clause in a scheme requiring a workman to join it as a condition of employment, but there were other ways by which a capitalist could compel the workman to join, and this Amendment was drawn for the purpose of defeating railway and other great companies who make it a rule not to allow their men to belong to any friendly society, trade union, or organisation other than the society they themselves organised. To allow this would be to place the workman in an unfair position, because he would lose the advantage of the allowance during illness to secure which he had made contributions in the past, and when he left his employment he might be too old to join an outside society. It would further be a blow to the Trade Unions to allow this condition to be imposed. The Amendment carried out the principle the House had approved.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL said the first part of the Amendment was really not required, for there was already a specific statement in the Bill that

"no scheme shall be so certified which contains an obligation upon the workmen to join the scheme as a condition of their hiring."

This, moreover, was not a clause in which such a provision could properly be inserted. The Amendment, therefore, was both unnecessary and out of place.

Mr. EDWARD STRACHEY (Somerset, E.) said the friendly societies took great interest in this matter, and had approached hon. Members upon it. Undoubtedly, unless words such as those proposed were inserted, great injustice would be done to members of friendly societies. He knew of the case of a man who had been told that, as a condition of his hiring, he must withdraw from the Hearts of Oak Benefit Society.

Mr. McKENNA thought the Attorney General should state his intention to introduce some similar provision in some later part of the Bill, because there was no sanction placed upon the employer at all at present. If an employer disobeyed there was no means of compelling him.

*Mr. J. WILSON (Durham, Mid) asked the Attorney General whether, although a scheme might not contain an objection as to hiring, supposing the fact of a workman being told that there was a scheme in connection with the industry which he must join, that would be a means whereby the certificate should be revoked.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL thought that would be outside the purview of the Bill. The clause only dealt with what schemes might be lawful for masters to propose and workmen to enter into, and it might be a condition of every scheme that it shall not contain an obligation on the workman to join as a condition of their hiring. The case suggested would not be a ground to revoke the certificate.

*SIR C. DILKE agreed that the Amendment was inapplicable at this place, but contended that there was necessity for such an Amendment. There could be no doubt about the cases at all; he knew some, of his own knowledge, where employers made it a condition of employment that their men should not be members of the trade union.

Question put, "That those words be there inserted."

The House divided:—Ayes, 108; Noes, 177.—(Division List, No. 274.)

MR. WOLFF moved, in Sub-section (4), to leave out the words:—

> "If the funds under any such scheme are not sufficient to meet the compensation payable thereout the employer shall be liable to make good the amount of compensation which would be payable under this Act."

He said that the Bill of 1893 was thrown out because those in charge of it would not accept the scheme of contracting out. He was strongly of opinion that, as the clause stood at present, great injustice would be inflicted on the employer. Take the case of a scheme which was formed between an employer and his workmen. The scheme might have existed for a time, and the fund for accidents was liable to the charge of a certain amount of money which had to be borne weekly. At the end of the year a strike might take place lasting for three months, and then it was found that there was no money in the fund. The workmen, seeing the position, might say that they would have no more to do with the fund, and the employer would be left to meet the whole liability, which in the first instance the workmen had contracted to bear jointly with him. This would be most unjust to the employer, and was not calculated to favour the contracting-out arrangements between employer and workmen.

MR. C. A. CRIPPS (Gloucester, Stroud) said that if this portion of the clause was retained (it was not in the original Bill) and the Amendment was not accepted, it was certain that no contracting out would ever take place thereafter. Here the House was dealing with a fund to which the employer and the workmen contributed on the partnership principle, in certain proportions, taking a common interest, a common risk, and a common liability. Was it in these circumstances fair that one partner only in the transaction should be liable for all the risk in case the fund was not sufficient to meet the liabilities for which it was originally instituted? Suppose during a long series of years by a scheme of this kind the workmen had received a benefit far greater than they would get out of the provisions of the Bill. In consequence of a strike, however, the fund for a time was insufficient to give the same advantages as the workmen might obtain under the terms of the Bill. Was all the liability to be suddenly thrown on the employer, though up to that date he had by his contribution placed the workmen in a better position than they would have been under the Bill itself. It was impossible to suppose that any employer would enter into one of these permanent relief funds in such circumstances. Supposing that, owing to some dispute between workmen and employer, the latter were suddenly to withdraw in large numbers from a scheme of this kind, it would for the moment be insufficient to meet the liabilities, and the employer would be liable to make up the whole deficiency, no matter how generous his contributions to the scheme might have been. ["Hear, hear!"] Under these conditions would any such scheme be initiated in the future? The Miners' Permanent Relief Fund had an income of £80,000, to which the employers contributed 25 per cent. It had worked well for 20 years, but it would not live a day if a provision of this kind were introduced. Why should it? ["Hear, hear!"] If the House desired that the principle of contracting out should be a reality in the future, in order that the principle of a common contribution by workmen and employers and of a common risk and liability should be maintained, then he hoped the House would leave the Bill as it was originally introduced. ["Hear, hear!"]

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN said that the Government could not accept the Amendment. [*Opposition cheers.*] But in saying that he did not wish to be thought in the least out of sympathy with what had been said by the hon. Member for Belfast. He was convinced that the objection of the hon. Member and of the hon. Member for Stroud to the proposal was due to a misappreciation of its effect. No one attached more importance to the schemes which the Government hoped would be framed under this Bill than did he. He differed entirely from hon. Gentlemen opposite, who had throughout shown their hostility to these schemes. To the principle of contracting out he did not attach so much importance except as far as it was necessary to establish these schemes. He believed that in many cases in the future, as in the past, alternative schemes of this kind would be established without unnecessary insistence upon contracting out. But he valued these schemes for three reasons. Under a scheme it was possible to have greater freedom and variety than under any Act of Parliament. Local and trade conditions could be met as Parliament could not meet them in dealing with the whole of the combined industries of the country. Secondly, it was possible to have arrangements more favourable to the workmen than any the House would dare to propose as the minimum to be imposed upon all the trades of the country. There would always be exceptional employers who would be willing to make larger sacrifices than any which the Legislature imposed as a matter of obligation. ["Hear, hear!"] Thirdly—and he was not certain that this was not most important of all—it was desirable that these schemes should be arranged, because he believed that the best security for the satisfactory administration of the law was in the joint effort of workmen and employers; and he did not believe that the result would ever be so satisfactory under any other arrangement. One great advantage of schemes like the miners' relief fund was that they had brought in the workpeople to join in the administration of the fund and in the supervision of payments, and to a certain extent, to make them responsible for their contributions. He thought—and had expressed the opinion publicly to deputations of the people principally concerned—that the contributions hitherto made to these societies were inadequate. Twenty-five per cent., or 30 per cent. at the outside, was an inadequate contribution on the part of the employers and on the part of the trade. But the principle of these relief funds was admirable. He sincerely desired to see them continued, and he believed they would be; only under the Bill the contributions would have to be increased. The one condition imposed on the employer was that he should pay as much to the new scheme as he would pay under the Bill. Let them see how it would work out. His hon. Friend behind (the Member for Stroud) said that if under certain circumstances a scheme broke down the whole liability would fall upon the employer. Nothing of the kind; the liability of the employer would not be increased a penny. And that was where he thought the hon. Member for Belfast had misunderstood what was no doubt a rather complicated arrangement. Take the case he had himself taken. Suppose a scheme established to which the firm concerned contributed the full amount of its liability as valued by the Registrar of Friendly Societies. Let them assume that the firm contributed £1,000 a year and the workpeople another £1,000. There would then be an opportunity of giving double the benefits given under the Act. Not that the amounts would necessarily be doubled, but the contributions might be disposed of in other ways and for other purposes than those contemplated in the Bill. They might, for instance, give assistance in case of accidents causing injuries that lasted less than a fortnight, or in cases of illness, or by way of superannuation; they might, in fact, make a scheme that would embrace all the necessities of the workpeople employed by means of a joint contribution, provided that the contribution of the employer amounted to his liability under this Bill. His hon. Friend supposed a strike. Thereupon, of course, the contributions of the workmen ceased, and the benefits would be reduced proportionately; but no additional liability would be thrown upon the employer. As long as he paid his £1,000 a year he would have done all the Bill called upon him to do, and would pay not one farthing more. [" Hear, hear ! "] He believed, therefore, that the contention of his two hon. Friends was based on a misapprehension of the proposal in the Bill. It was a perfectly fair and reasonable proposal. It only went to secure that by no possibility under any scheme should the employer escape from the liability imposed upon him in the Bill. It did not exaggerate or increase that liability by a fraction of a penny. He trusted he had made clear what was the intention of the clause, and if he had successfully done so he hoped his hon. Friend would be content to withdraw his Amendment.

Mr. PARKER SMITH said there was another point in which he thought this proposal would have a very serious effect in making contracting-out schemes impossible, and that was in regard to one kind of scheme with which the right hon. Gentleman who had just spoken had not been dealing at all. He had been dealing with cases of a running fund in trades where the accidents were not serious. But there was one industry in which, if anywhere, this new liability which the Bill threw on the employers would cause a very great inclination to make schemes of this kind, and to make them in a way which this particular proposal would very seriously affect. Take the case of dangerous colliery accidents. The possibility of a big explosion in which a hundred or two hundred, or perhaps four hundred people might be killed, would always be before the owner of a dangerous pit. It might be thoroughly to the advantage of the owner of a pit of that sort to establish a scheme with contributions from the workmen and from himself, much larger year by year than the actual actuarial value of any risk of a big explosion, in order to avoid the ruin that a big explosion, if it came off would entail upon him. Just on the principle that a man paid a heavier fire insurance than the actual actuarial risk demanded. In this case see what happened. Year after year, for many years, the owner of the colliery had continued to pay very handsomely in all cases of accidents; the men had had the advantage—in the case of small accidents, in the case of explosions which killed one, two, or three of their number—of very much better terms than they would get under the Bill. But some day there came the great explosion which this insurance fund would be established to protect the employer against. Look at the effect the provision would have. Then of course, the fund, in which there might be a few thousand pounds, became bankrupt at once, and instead of the employer being able to have the advantage which the hon. Baronet the Member for Chester-le-street was anxious he should have, of establishing an insurance fund and letting the men have recourse to that, as soon as the fund was exhausted the men would come against their employer and make him bankrupt. Well, that entirely put an end, he thought, to the possibility of any contracting-out scheme in regard to collieries; he thought that the case of the collliers ought to be considered.

*Mr. SYDNEY GEDGE (Walsall) said he had listened attentively to the right hon. Gentleman's speech in the hope of finding a valid argument in favour of this sub-section, but he listened in vain. He, as it seemed, avoided the most important point in the matter. He took the concrete case of an employer, after contracting with his workmen out of the Bill in favour of a scheme more beneficial to them, paying £1,000 a year to the fund created by that scheme, and he stated that so long as he paid that sum he would have done all the Bill required, and would not pay a farthing more, and he therefore argued that this sub-section did not increase his liability; but he thought that the right hon. Gentleman forgot that in the case supposed the funds under the scheme would have been insufficient to pay the compensations due, and that the claims for these compensations would be made by individual workmen, who would, if this sub-section became law, be entitled to receive the compensation due under the Bill, notwithstanding the existence of the scheme. If any such workmen were to commence an action against the employer for compensation, it would be no defence to his action that he had paid for many years under the contract annually a sum which had been the actuarial measure of his liability under this Act. He would have to pay the whole amount of compensation then due, and therefore, so far from his not being called upon to pay one farthing more, he would have to pay, perhaps, £300 apiece to 20 workmen who had been killed. If he was right in this—and he should be very glad to be corrected if wrong—then the employer would have to pay all that he had agreed to pay under the contract and also the compensation required by this Act. It followed that no employer in his senses would enter into such a contract, for he would be playing the game with the workmen of "heads I lose, tails you win." Consequently this sub-section would kill all schemes, or rather prevent their coming to the birth, and as he agreed with the right hon. Gentleman in valuing these schemes very highly, he must object to this sub-section. And he had an additional reason beyond those mentioned by him for valuing these schemes. Unless by means of some one of them the employer contracted out, it might be impossible at his death to wind up his estate for many years, because both his real and personal property would be liable for the compensation which he had to pay, consisting, perhaps, of pensions for 30 years or more. The House was acting like Penelope with her web—during the morning they were endeavouring to pass in Grand Committee the Land Transfer Bill, which was to make the transfer of land easy, and in the evening they were extending the charges upon land, rendering the production of long titles necessary. He hoped that some Member of the Government would clear up the point which he had taken, and, if that be not done, he must vote against this sub-section. ["Hear, hear!"]

*Mr. J. A. PEASE said he should vote against the Amendment. That side of the House was opposed to contracting out of the Bill on principle, and whilst mutual arrangements might be made outside the Bill, he was not going to be a party to placing the working men in a worse position, in the event of their contracting out under the provisions of the Bill, than they would be in if there was no contracting out clause at all. He thought that in the remarks from the Treasury Bench full justice had not been done to the employers in the north of England. As a matter of fact the maximum was 20 per cent. In addition to that the employers had for many years past contributed free coals and free houses to their workmen.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN: It is part of their wages.

*Mr. J. A. PEASE said that was so, but it was possible for the employer to get rid of a workman at a fortnight's notice. Then in addition to free house and coals, an injured workman had free medical attendance and the employer contributed 5s. a week, smart money it was called technically, which commenced from the date of an accident and not two weeks after it as was proposed in the Bill. He thought it was only fair to the employers to say this much.

Viscount CRANBORNE (Rochester) said he agreed with a great deal of the speech of the Colonial Secretary, but he could not quite agree with his conclusion. He felt, perhaps, more strongly than his right hon. Friend the enormous advantage of these arrangements. It was quite clear that any man who valued the independence and the manliness of the working classes, must be of opinion that it was far better that they should be able to make their own arrangements—["hear, hear!"]—but inasmuch as they had dependents relying on them for subsistence, it was thought proper by the Government that they should not be allowed to make any arrangement that would be worse for themselves than the compensation provided by the Bill. Surely, however, the Bill as it would stand, even if the Amendment was carried, would be entirely adequate for the object. It was not merely that the workmen should be consulted as a body, or that they should individually contract, but the Registrar of Friendly Societies had to see that the conditions of every scheme were as favourable to the workmen as the provisions of the Bill. If the House was to rely on the Registrar at all, they must conclude that he would come to a right decision. Even if the Amendment were carried it would be perfectly clear that the workmen would be put in as good, if not a better position than under the Bill. His right hon. Friend said that if the Amendment were not carried, the employer would not be worse off; but he agreed with his hon. Friend below him that he would be worse off. If the employer was not better off under the scheme than under the Bill, what inducement was there to him to enter into an arrangement? Even on the ground that the employer would be equally well off under one arrangement as under the other, his right hon. Friend ought, he thought, to agree to the Amendment. It was quite conceivable too, that under a scheme the employer might have to contribute more than he would have to find under the Bill, and in that case he would be positively worse off. It appeared to him that there would be no inducement to employers to enter into these arrangements, and in the circumstances he would have to vote for the Amendment.

MR. LIONEL HOLLAND (Tower Hamlets, Bow and Bromley) said he was very glad the Government had not accepted the Amendment. ["Hear, hear!"] This clause enacted that the scheme of contracting out should be equally favourable to the workman with the provisions of the Act. That could only mean one thing—that though the benefits might be varied and altered, though they might be enlarged or extended to the amount of the workmen's contributions, still the fund which the employer contributed to the scheme must be equal to or not less than what he would have to find under the Act. It had been urged that this was a matter which ought to be left to the Registrar, and he agreed that if the Registrar were infallible this section might be superfluous. The Registrar, however, might make a miscalculation, or might be deceived, and he might certify a scheme under which the employer's contribution to the fund would not satisfy the whole of his liability under the Act. In cases of that kind it would be only fair when a deficiency arose that the employer should be liable to the extent contemplated by the Legislature.

*SIR A. HICKMAN pointed out that when a fund failed to meet all liabilities any excess payments by the employer under a scheme would cease and his liability would then be governed exclusively by the Bill. The payments which he would have to make would then be precisely the same as they would be if no scheme had been framed. To the argument that if this Amendment were not accepted there would be no inducement to an employer to enter into a scheme he would reply by saying that the employer's inducement would be that he could make more efficient provision for his workmen by establishing a fund than would be afforded by the Bill. For example, the Bill provided that in case of a workman's death his family should receive a lump sum; but a lump sum could easily be dissipated, and it was far better for the family that the employer should have arranged that the payment to them should be continuous.

MR. ASQUITH: I desire to support the Government in their opposition to this Amendment. We are celebrating the obsequies of contracting out. The Secretary to the Colonies has applied his torch to the funeral pyre, and in a few sentences I will do what I can to fan the flames. I have a very vivid recollection of what happened four years ago when it was my duty to propose legislation upon this subject to the House—legislation which was defeated because the Government of that day would not permit the principle of contracting out to be introduced into their Bill. Our attitude with reference to that matter has been persistently misrepresented. I have never expressed or felt the least hostility to any of those mutual schemes between masters and men, under which better and larger provision was made in cases of accident than the law afforded. But the position of the Government of that day was that, where those schemes existed, where they had been framed in good faith and carried out in good faith, there was no necessity for exemption from the general operation of the law. If a scheme would give the workman a better position than the law would give him, it is contrary to human nature and to common sense to suppose that he would not have recourse to it. The moment you allow contracting out, unless you surround it by conditions which it is almost impossible for the foresight of the Legislature adequately to devise, you open the door to every kind of illicit influence, every kind of improper pressure, every kind of unfair arrangement. On that ground, and on that ground alone, we insisted that the workman should not be able to accept a less provision in case of accident than the law gave him. What is the position in which we now find ourselves under this

clause? In the first place, no scheme for contracting out is to be permitted unless it is certified by the Registrar of Friendly Societies to be not less favourable to the workmen than the provisions of the general law. I do not think myself that that is a very satisfactory arrangement, because I very much doubt if any Government official, however well disposed, full of experience and expert knowledge, will have the means of being able to ascertain whether any particular scheme under local conditions is equal to the provisions of the general law. But in the paragraph we are now considering the Government have made a considerable and substantial addition to the safeguards provided by the Bill. It might happen that the Registrar General of Friendly Societies might be mistaken, and that under the actual operation of the Scheme, which on paper looked fairly reasonable, the workman has not secured equal advantages. To meet that contingency the Government have consented to the addition of a paragraph which amounts to a guarantee on the part of the employer that if the expectations entertained by the Registrar General should be defeated the employer will make good the deficiency. That is the effect of the paragraph, which I think most wise and proper. ["Hear, hear!"] But, while I entirely agree with the Government in regard to that paragraph, I ask the apostles of contracting out on the Benches opposite, those who in 1894 defeated our Bill because we would not permit contracting out—[*cheers*]—those who at the last General Election went to their constituents and declared that they were the champions of freedom of contract—[*laughter*]—against the predatory and socialistic legislation of a Radical Government—I ask how we stand to-night? ["Hear, hear!"] Given that no scheme of free contract can have effect unless approved in the first place by the Registrar General of Friendly Societies, and given, next, that no scheme, even if so approved, will be carried into effect or be really operative in the event of failure except at the expense of the employer making good the deficiency, what becomes of your principle of free contract? [*Cheers.*] What refuge is there for it within the corners of the Act of Parliament? If the scheme is to be safeguarded by this provision, what inducement has any employer, any sane man—[*cheers*]—to deliberately contract himself out of the law when he knows that, in the first place, his contract must be reviewed by a Government official, and, if after a course of experience it turns out not to give the workman equally good provision, he has to make good the deficiency. Contracting out under these circumstances is an imposture and a farce—[*loud Opposition cheers*]—and all the rhetoric expended on platforms at the last General Election in support of it was insincere, hollow, and of no avail. I am speaking as a supporter of the Government—[*laughter and cheers*]—defending them from the Members for Gloucester, Belfast and the others—the few faithful who remain among the faithless—and I say we are celebrating, with the joint assent of the great majority of the House, the funeral of the principle of contracting out. [*Loud Opposition cheers*].

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR Manchester, E.) rising amidst Ministerial cheers: So long as the Debate was permitted to continue as a business discussion of the Bill dealing with the business of the day, I did not think it necessary to intervene. My right hon. Friend near me dealt adequately with all the questions that have arisen as far as those questions have been kept separate—and I am glad they have been—from party controversies, which I should have thought might well be buried—[*Opposition laughter*]—in the interests of right hon. and hon. Gentlemen opposite. We, at all events, if they desire it, are prepared now and at any other time—[*Ministerial cheers*]—to contrast, in this audience or any audience, the Bill they brought forward and recommended two years ago with the Bill which we bring forward and recommend now. ["Hear, hear!"] I do not know whether any of them are sanguine enough to suppose that, as the result of such a comparison, they would come out with the general suffrages of the people of this country. The right hon. Gentleman who has just sat down tells us that this Amendment is the funeral oration of contracting out, and that we are now occupied in celebrating the obsequies of that principle. The right hon. Gentleman, though he has dragged in by head and shoulders the Debates which took place within these walls two years ago, seems to have forgotten the principle which underlay those Debates. He seems to think that in this Bill we have deserted the principles which we once advocated, and have now taken to advocate principles which we once denounced. [*Opposition cheers.*] The right hon. Gentleman and those who cheer him have entirely forgotten the form in which we have advocated contracting out in the Bill which he introduced, and the very terms of what was called Lord Dudley's Amendment which was recommended by us to the House. What was the essence and substance of Lord Dudley's Amendment? The Amendment advocated by us, then sitting in Opposition—the Amendment upon which the Bill of the right hon. Gentleman was wrecked and the whole settlement of the question hung up all these years—laid down in as explicit language as the draftsmen could supply every possible precaution for carrying out that which, by the right hon. Gentleman's confession, we are now carrying out. [*Cheers.*] We said, let us not do anything that can possibly be avoided to make these arrangements between masters and men impossible; we must, indeed, provide that men do not enter into engagements which would put them in a worse position than the statute, without those arrangements, would put them in, but, subject to that one condition, let us do all we can to keep these associations alive. That is precisely what is done by the Bill if it passes in its present shape. ["Hear, hear!"] There is the completest freedom between masters and workmen to make these arrangements between themselves, but we have made ample provision that under no circumstances, not even if the Registrar of Friendly Societies should make an error in his calculations, are the workmen to be damnified. How is that inconsistent with the line we took up before? It is absolutely in conformity with it, and we have now carried out, I admit in a briefer form, but not in a less complete form, what we endeavoured to carry out in Lord Dudley's Amendment—namely, to hedge round the liberty which we are anxious to give the employers and employed with every precaution which would prevent the employed from suffering by the arrangements which might be made between them and their employers. The right hon. Gentleman, echoing criticisms—not, as I think, very well-founded criticisms—passed on this side of the House, says, What possible motive can an employer have, if this Bill passes in its present shape, for entering into any contract by which the Bill can be superseded? I will satisfy the right hon. Gentleman and my hon. Friends on this side. I admit if the employer hopes to go into an arrangement allowed by this Bill for the purpose of economising money, undoubtedly the provisions of this Bill will prevent his doing so, and it would have been equally prevented under Lord Dudley's Amendment. ["Hear, hear!"] We have never advocated contracting out as a means of economising the funds of the employer. What has been our motive has been this—we have thought it desirable to allow arrangements which might carry out two great objects, first a better provision for the men, and secondly, better relations between master and men. We thought when the right hon. Gentleman brought forward his Bill—and we think now—that if the employers and men choose to enter into arrangements different possibly in their terms, wider possibly in their scope, than those provided by the statute, that is an advantage both to masters and to men; to the men because it gives them better terms, to the masters and the men because it improves the relations subsisting between them. But, Sir, neither in 1893 nor in 1897 have we ever come forward, either in this House, or in the House of Lords, or on the platform before our constituents, or under any other circumstances, and advocated contracting out as between employers and employed for the purpose of making the terms of compensation less onerous to the employers. ["Hear, hear!"] We have been consistent from beginning to end—[*Opposition laughter and Ministerial cheers*]—and if any hon. or right hon. Gentleman thinks it worth while to continue this Party controversy, which we at all events did not initiate this evening, he has only, in order to convince himself that I have not in the least exaggerated the plea which I put up on behalf of the Gentlemen with whom I act, to glance at the terms of Lord Dudley's Amendment to which the right hon. Gentleman had such an objection that he sacrificed the whole legislation for which he made himself responsible rather than accept it. I am glad to think that the principle of the Amendment will now by the consent of the right hon. Gentleman himself—[*Ministerial laughter and cheers*]—be accepted. We are not holding any obsequies at all, and if we are putting the torch to any pyre—I am repeating the metaphor of the right hon. Gentleman himself—it surely is to that of all the pleas by which he and his Friends attempted to justify for Party purposes the abandonment of their legislation. [*Ministerial cheers.*]

SIR JAMES JOICEY said he was surprised to hear the First Lord of the Treasury accusing the right hon. Gentleman the Member for East Fife of using

First Lord of the Treasury.

the Bill for Party purposes. What was the whole intention of the Bill but to secure votes for the purpose of keeping the right hon. Gentleman in office? He had listened with the greatest pleasure to the speech of his right hon. Friend the Member for East Fife; and agreed with him that they were attending the obsequies of contracting out so far as this Bill was concerned. He could not find in the Bill the slightest inducement to employers to put forward any scheme for contracting out. The right hon. Gentleman the First Lord of the Treasury had said that the object of the contracting out clause was to secure better conditions for the men, and better relations between the masters and men. He had some experience of the permanent relief funds, and he regretted to say that he did not know of one that was actuarially sound, and he did not know of any employer that would join in those funds if this clause remained in the Bill. The clause would create the greatest difficulty between workmen and employers, and it would practically prevent any mutual insurance associations being established.

And, it being midnight, the Debate stood adjourned.

Debate to be resumed upon Thursday.

LAND TRANSFER [CONSOLIDATED FUND].

Considered in Committee.

Question again proposed,

"That it is expedient to authorise the payment, out of the Consolidated Fund, of any deficiency in the Insurance Fund which may be established under any Act of the present Session to establish a Real Representative and to amend the Land Transfer Act 1875."—(*The Attorney General.*)

Question put, and agreed to.

Resolution to be reported To-morrow.

ISLE OF MAN (CHURCH BUILDING ACTS) BILL [H.L.].

Adjourned Debate on Second Reading [5th July] further adjourned till Thursday.

NAVAL WORKS BILL.

Resolution reported:—

"That it is expedient—

(*a*) to make provision for the construction of works and acquisition of land in the United Kingdom and elsewhere for the purposes of the Royal Navy;

(*b*) to authorise the issue, out of the Consolidated Fund, of such sums, not exceeding in the whole £654,000, as may be required for such purposes; and

(*c*) to authorise the application of the surplus set apart, under Section four of the Naval Works Act 1896 to the payment of the expenses of such works."

Resolution agreed to.

Ordered, That a Bill be brought in upon the said Resolution, and that Mr. Goschen, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Macartney, and Mr. Austen Chamberlain do prepare and bring it in.

Bill presented accordingly, and read the First time; to be read a Second time upon Monday next, and to be printed.—[Bill 303.]

POST OFFICE (SITES) [EXPENSES].

Resolution reported:—

"That it is expedient to authorise the payment, out of moneys to be provided by Parliament, of all sums payable by the Postmaster General under any Act of the present Session to enable Her Majesty's Postmaster General to acquire lands for the public service, and of all expenses incurred in carrying into effect the provisions of such Act."

Resolution agreed to.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES (METRIC SYSTEM) BILL.

Third Reading deferred till Thursday.

FOREIGN PRISON-MADE GOODS BILL.

Committee deferred till Thursday.

POOR LAW BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Thursday.

SCHOOL BOARDS' EXPENSES BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Thursday.

CHAFF-CUTTING MACHINES ACCIDENTS BILL.

As amended (by the Standing Committee), considered; Bill read the Third time, and passed.

LOCOMOTIVES ON HIGHWAYS BILL.

Consideration as amended (by the Standing Committee), deferred till To-morrow.

ARCHDEACONRY OF LONDON (ADDITIONAL ENDOWMENTS) BILL.

Considered in Committee.

Clause 1:—Committee report Progress; to sit again To-morrow.

WAREHOUSEMEN'S CERTIFICATES BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Tuesday 3rd August.

PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS (MARINERS' VOTES) BILL.

Order for Second Reading read, and discharged; Bill withdrawn.

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Tuesday 20th July.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (COUNTY COUNCIL CLERKS) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Tuesday 20th July.

COLONIAL SOLICITORS BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Thursday 15th July.

EMPLOYERS LIABILITY ACT (1880) AMENDMENT (No. 2) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Monday next.

POLICE PENSIONS AND SERVICE BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Thursday.

POLICE APPOINTMENT AND PROMOTION BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Thursday.

YORKSHIRE CORONERS BILL.

Read a Second time, and committed for Monday next.

LICENSING (SCOTLAND) ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Thursday.

CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD (IRELAND) (COMPULSORY PURCHASE POWERS) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION BILL [H.L.].

Read a Second time, and committed to the Standing Committee on Law, Etc.

LICENSING EXEMPTION (HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

House Adjourned at Ten Minutes after Twelve o'Clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Wednesday, 7th July 1897.

PETITION (TYPEWRITTEN).

*Mr. SYDNEY GEDGE (Walsall), addressing Mr. Speaker on a point of Order, said that a few days ago he presented a petition from the Mayor, Corporation, and Burgesses of Walsall in reference to a matter in which they were interested, and it had just been returned to him by the Committee with an intimation that it could not be received on the ground that it was neither written nor lithographed, but printed, thereby infringing the Rule of the House relating to petitions. The fact was that the petition was typewritten, as was the case of so many documents, legal and otherwise, and he desired to know whether he must return the document to the petitioners or whether it ought not to be received in the form in which it now stood?

*Mr. SPEAKER: The Rule of the House which requires that a petition shall be in writing and not printed was made long before typewriting was known, and therefore contains no reference to typewritng. I am bound to say that the document in question which has been handed to me is in print, and therefore is not in conformity with the Rule. It is quite possible that the House may be disposed to alter the Rule, but as long as it stands it must be conformed to. In my view, typewriting is in the nature of printing, and not of writing.

*Mr. GEDGE asked whether the petition must be returned to the petitioners in order that they might comply with the requirements of the Rule?

*Mr. SPEAKER: The petitioners must be informed of the Order of the House in the matter. The Rule binds the House itself as well as the Committees on public petitions.

*Mr. GEDGE said that he was much obliged to the right hon. Gentleman. He begged to give notice that he would take the earliest opportunity of moving that the Rule be altered, and that typewritten or type printed petitions be received.

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

VERMINOUS PERSONS BILL.

Order for third Reading read.

Mr. WALTER HAZELL (Leicester) moved, "That the Bill be now Read the Third time." He said the object of the Measure was to enable persons infested with vermin to be cleansed and disinfected without having to go to a workhouse or casual ward. It accordingly gave permission to local authorities to grant the use of their disinfecting and bathing appliances to any persons thus infested who might apply for this purpose, and it permitted these authorities to incur the additional expense which would in some instances be necessary for maintenance or for the erection of new appliances.

Mr. JAMES LOWTHER (Kent, Thanet), who rose amid some cheers and laughter, said that before the House passed the Third Reading of the Measure, he desired to draw attention to certain omissions in it. In the first place, he objected to the Measure because it was permissive only and not compulsory. He should have liked to have seen a Measure of this character, which he understood was introduced with the sanction of the Government of the day, made of a more effective character for the purpose of enforcing sanitation among certain classes. He desired to point out what was the real germ of the evil which the Bill sought to meet—namely, the alien pauper immigration that was permitted to go on unchecked. Alien paupers who arrived at Hull or Grimsby in a filthy condition were at once passed on by the local authorities to Liverpool closely packed in railway carriages which at other times were used for the conveyance of ordinary passengers, with serious results to the latter. As the law now stood, it was the interest of the local authorities, acting on behalf of the ratepayers, that these filthy pauper aliens should not be subjected to an effective inspection, as it might delay their transit to other parts of the country. The Report of the Committee which had sat for the purpose of inquiring into the subject of the immigration of pauper aliens, clearly showed that verminous persons were to a large extent imported into this country. That Report also showed that the so-called inspection of intending emigrants in Russia and certain other parts of Europe was of the most perfunctory character, and was conducted upon principles altogether opposed to the idea of saving this country from danger. The object of the inspectors was not so much to prevent verminous persons from leaving their country as to get rid of them and to facilitate their reaching our shores, utterly regardless of the danger to ourselves that it might give rise to. The Bill gave permission to local authorities to lend cleansing apparatus to any person who, on the ground that he was infested with vermin, should apply for it. [*Laughter.*] Was not this reducing the legislation of the House to a farce? The person whose very presence in this country was a source of danger to health was to come forward and say he was a verminous person. [*Renewed laughter.*] Legislation on the subject of alien immigration, of which the question of verminous persons formed a part had been promised in the Queen's Speech. Last Session the Government gave an undertaking that they would deal with the subject, but their promise had not been fulfilled, and it was hopeless to expect that it would be fulfilled during the Session which was now in progress. A large number of persons arrived from abroad with a view to making this country their home, and not merely of passing through it on their way to other parts of the world. They went to reside not in the midst of the community they first entered at the port of London, but they passed on to other towns and permeated the whole country, to the great detriment of the community from a sanitary point of view. Returns showed that the arrival of foreigners in this country ostensibly going elsewhere had largely increased. Whereas, in May 1896, 4,275 such persons arrived in this country, there were 4,939 in May 1897, an increase of 700. That was a matter not lightly to be passed over. From local circumstances the figures varied from year to year, but whereas up to the end of May 1896 17,095 foreigners were admitted to this country, up to the end of May 1897 18,519 persons were admitted, an increase of about 1,500. The evil was steadily on the increase, and the subject was one which the House ere long would be compelled to take up. No doubt the date at which the Session had arrived would preclude the Government from legislating on alien immigration, but the House had an opportunity of dealing effectually with a limited branch of the subject. If the House decided to recommit this Bill it should insist on the inspection being real, compulsory, and not permissive. He did not propose that the cost of carrying out the Act should be borne entirely by the local authorities, but that as the verminous persons were a natural danger the cost of the Act should be borne by the country at large. He hoped that the House would consent to the recommittal of the Bill, with a view to the insertion of the necessary provisions that he had indicated. He could not go into the question of alien immigration now, but it was one on which the mind of the country had been decidedly expressed, more especially with regard to its sanitary aspects. The Report of the Committee which sat during 1889 said:—

> "The mode of living of immigrants is wretched in the extreme. Their houses are in a miserable unsanitary condition; their food is of a poor nature, and they are able to maintain existence on much less than an English workman."

It was also stated on authority that could not be gainsaid that the condition in which these persons lived was a danger to the public health. Mr. Abraham Levy, who spoke with knowledge on the subject, was asked:—

> "Are they dirty or clean?
>
> "A.—That depends whether they are new arrivals or foreigners who have lived in England for some time. The latter are very clean. When these people are new arrivals they seem to be overcrowded and dirty.
>
> "Q.—How are they as regards sanitary arrangements?
>
> "A.—Unfortunately, they bring with them Continental disregard for sanitary arrangements, and dislike the use of soap and water."

These persons who had "a Continental disregard" for soap and water were the persons whom the Bill sought to make better acquainted with the elements for which they had a chronic dislike.

[*Laughter.*] But the Bill, as it stood, was a complete farce. He trusted hon. Gentlemen would co-operate in making the Bill effective for the enforcement of sanitary precautions, by introducing provisions which would make it an advantage to the community. He moved to leave out the words "now Read the Third time," and, at the end of the question, to add the word "re-committed."

*SIR FRANCIS POWELL (Wigan) said the Bill illustrated the difficulties which attended our system of legislation. On several occasions the Bill had passed through its stages without a single word, because there had been no opportunity for discussion. The discussion of the Bill now seemed to have a strange fascination for the House. [*Laughter.*] The objection he took to the Bill was of a technical character, but although technical it was fatal. Some Bills could be altered in another place, but the alteration needed in this Bill could not be made in another place, because questions of rating could not be there dealt with. In the latter part of the first clause the provision as regarded the cost of carrying out the Act ran as follows:—

> "Local authorities may expend any reasonable sum on buildings, appliances, and attendants that may be required for the carrying out of this Act."

That might be a good Instruction to the draughtsman, but could not form part of the Statute Law of the Realm. It was not enough to inform a local authority that they could spend money; they ought also to be directed how they could obtain that sum. He would refer to two Statutes, in the passing of which through Parliament he took some part. The Public Libraries Act, 1892, said that the money was to be derived out of a rate to be raised with and as part of the Poor rate, or in other cases out of rates described in the Statute. Like provisions were found in the Museums Act. He believed that provision to be necessary, and unless such words formed part of the statute it would be utterly worthless. He thought that objection was fatal to the Bill, in addition to which the administration would be attended with the greatest difficulty. How were they to enforce discipline among these verminous persons? How were they to keep them in order? How many patients was the authority to provide for? Was there to be an average number of applicants, or was an enormous crowd to collect at the entrance to the Town Hall? There was no direction as to how they were to be treated. He regarded the Bill as impracticable, and begged to second the Motion.

MR. HENRY LABOUCHERE (Northampton) said he was surprised that his hon. Friend the Member for Leicester had not given a fuller explanation. He had come there with a perfectly open mind on the subject, and had felt grateful to his hon. Friend for tackling such an unsavoury subject. He was bound to say, however, that he was convinced that he was not justified in voting for this Bill. This Bill had been rushed through recklessly without any sort of discussion. He blamed himself—[*laughter*]—and all other Members of the House. They ought to have looked more carefully into it to see what his hon. Friend was doing. With every wish to aid his hon. Friend in his campaign against these little animals, they were bound to say that the Bill in its present form was impossible. They were told that the House of Lords might make alterations in the Bill, but he did not think they ought to throw their dirty work on the House of Lords. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for Thanet used cogent arguments in regard to aliens, and clearly showed that it would not be fair to throw this local burden on Liverpool. It seemed that the vermin on the persons arriving here from foreign countries were more voracious than the vermin of this country. The right hon. Gentleman estimated that there were about 4,000 persons arriving in one month alone.

MR. JAMES LOWTHER said there were upwards of 9,000 persons in the month of May alone.

MR. LABOUCHERE said the vermin upon these persons bred very swiftly, and taking this number of 9,000 as a basis —[*laughter*]—they would get millions and millions of these creatures. He had listened with the greatest respect to the hon. Baronet, who was an authority on local matters, who had asked where this money was to come from. Why was the Bill to be optional if it was a sound Bill?

They were told that any town or district might allow these unfortunate persons to have their clothes boiled and themselves cleansed, but, he would point out, these persons might concentrate themselves in one particular parish. If it was a local tax, however, they ought to go to their own parish. Moreover, sometimes the clothes of these people when boiled would fall to pieces, and then the parish would have to supply clothes also. He complained that there was no definition clause. What was the definition of a verminous person and of vermin? Were persons suffering from fleas to be understood to come within the scope of the Bill? He hoped his hon. Friend would give some sort of schedule of vermin. [*Laughter.*] He admired his hon. Friend for having taken up this subject; they owed him a deep debt of gratitude, and if he pursued the subject exhaustively his name would for ever be connected with it. [*Laughter.*] He was afraid they might not be able to get the Bill through this Session, but, if not, they might be able to grapple with it next Session, and if a sound Bill was brought in, he should be ready to vote for it.

Mr. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis) said he did not think verminous persons should have freedom to roam about our cities and spread abroad the unfortunate denizens with which they were affected. But he agreed that there should be in the Bill some definition of vermin. After all, "vermin" was a purely relative term. It meant what one did not like. To a battleship torpedoes were vermin, and were so officially described. Rabbits, stoats, and weasels were also often described as vermin. Surely the industrious flea when he was engaged in earning his own livelihood—[*laughter*]—was not to be regarded under the Bill as vermin. He was sure the hon. Member who brought in the Bill did not propose to abolish the lawful calling of the industrious flea; and that it was only when the flea was ranging as a marauder over the body of some unfortunate person that he was to be considered as vermin. [*Laughter.*] For a short period he had been a verminous person himself. [*Laughter.*] He unfortunately one time took passage in a Spanish ship, and on waking at night found the rats were holding military manœuvres over his person—[*laughter*]—but he got rid of the vermin without having to appeal to a local authority. [*Laughter.*] He admitted that both on account of the verminous persons themselves and on account of public health it was desirable that such persons should be dealt with in some way. But some of the proposals of the Bill were ridiculous. The operation of the Bill was purely optional. If a person thought he was verminous enough he might appeal to a local authority. But surely if there was a need for cleansing those verminous persons, the cleansing should be made compulsory. The verminous person was the last person that should be consulted in the matter. If he were a public nuisance it should not be left to him to decide whether he should be cleansed or not. The intention of the Bill was good; but its provisions were ineffective.

Mr. ROBERT ASCROFT (Oldham) suggested that the Bill should be recommitted, not to a Committee of the whole House, but to a select Committee composed of members having experience on the subject. He for his part objected to his time being wasted discussing a question which he knew nothing about. On the other hand there were Members who had experience of the hardship inflicted on their constituencies by the free immigration of foreign paupers into them; and their opinions would carry great weight. The names on the back of the Bill were the names of persons who could not have had the slightest personal experience on the question, and therefore he could not regard them as authorities. One of the provisions of the Bill was that a verminous person might make application to the Guardians of his district to be cleansed. That meant that the application of the man would be discussed at the Board of Guardians, and his condition published in the local paper, with the result that he would be shunned by his fellow-workmen and his companions, and the object of the Bill would be thereby defeated. Then again, the Bill was too limited in its scope. It only enabled the local authority to deal with the clothing of a verminous person, and gave no power to enter the house occupied by a verminous person. and disinfect the bedding and furniture. All this showed the need for having the question reconsidered by a Committee of men of experience in the matter.

MR. HAZELL assured the House that there was no intention on the part of the promoters of the Bill to deal specially with the case of foreign immigrants. No doubt many of those people were in as offensive a condition personally as some of the poorest and lowest classes in this country; but it was a national fallacy to say that we were cleaner than people on the Continent. ["Hear, hear!"] The Bill aimed at doing good work among the very poor. There were in London alone—and the same remark applied to the other great cities of the country—50,000 persons who had to sleep nightly in refuges; and who consequently came to a loathsome state of body. These people had no means of getting cleansed unless they became paupers and applied for admission to a casual ward. ["Hear, hear!"] Hon. Members who were connected with the administration of the poor law were aware that the cleansing apparatus and arrangements provided under the Bill existed in most casual wards, and he believed the application of the cleansing process was more or less compulsory in the case of persons admitted to those wards. But it would be adding to the grievance of unfortunate verminous persons if they were obliged to go through a casual ward in order to get cleansed. A man might for the want of a few pence be compelled to go to a dirty night refuge; and by getting into a condition of body loathsome to his fellow-workers and employers, might be prevented from getting employment. The Bill provided that a person in such a state might go to a local authority and that the local authority might have the necessary apparatus for cleansing him. It was objected that the Bill ought to be compulsory, but under the conditions it was only by good fortune that a permissive Bill could be got through the House. A compulsory Measure would certainly have provoked a great deal of opposition. The Bill threw no expense on the local authorities unless they wished to incur it. The evil dealt with was not confined to the persons who had been mentioned, but was liable to be spread through the general population by infected persons lounging about the parks and going to public reading rooms and libraries. The Bill had been introduced at the urgent request of some of the best known workers among the poor. He had visited casual wards and lodging houses, and had consulted nurses, local authorities, and the clergy; and all were agreed that a Bill of this kind might do a great deal of good and could do no harm.

Question put, "That the words 'now read the Third time' stand part of the Question."

The House divided:—Ayes, 115; Noes, 34.—(Division List, No. 275.)

Main Question proposed.

MR. DUNCOMBE (Cumberland, Egremont) said that the Bill was the most permissive Measure he had ever known, and that he could not believe it would do any good. He sympathised with the objects of the promoters, but the Bill was unlikely to promote them, and if it were passed it would make it very difficult in another Session to introduce a more effective Bill. It was computed that in Whitechapel alone 60,000 of the poorest people slept in dosshouses every night; and without some power of inspection and means of compelling those people to go to the local authorities to be cleansed, the Bill would have no effect at all. The Bill as it stood, being wholly permissive, was a bad and useless Bill, and, that being so, he hoped the House would not allow it to be read a Third time.

MR. COURTENAY WARNER (Staffordshire, Lichfield) supported the Bill, because, though it did not go as far as it might, it would do a certain amount of good. He was sure it would be appreciated by many people, even though it was only permissive. Foreigners had been prominently brought forward in the Debate, but he did not think that the foreigner was necessarily a more dirty person than some of our own inhabitants in poor places. With regard to the suggestion that a more complete Bill should be brought in next Session, that was no reason for rejecting what the present Bill offered. In his opinion, the local authority ought to have power to cleanse houses as well as persons. Most of the dirt came from the houses those persons lived in. If the local authority were empowered, at the request of a certain number of inhabitants, to enter and cleanse a dirty house, it would be a great improvement in many cases. And one of the great causes of dirt was the papering of walls over and over again. He objected however, to compulsory powers being directed against individuals, because this might lead to pressure being brought to bear upon very harmless persons.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. T. W. RUSSELL, Tyrone, S.) hoped that after the Debate which had taken place and the Division on the preceding Motion, the proceedings on this Bill would be no longer delayed. He did not think that what he could not help characterising as trifling with a Measure of this kind was at all to the credit of the House of Commons.

MR. LABOUCHERE said the hon. Gentleman talked about trifling with the House of Commons. What had been the case while the Debate had been going on? The hon. Gentleman had been the sole tenant of the Treasury Bench. None of Her Majesty's Ministers and such-like great persons had been present to offer any light and leading upon the subject. What were the views of the Government about it? Really the House was in the position of there being no Government at all in the country. [*Laughter.*] Seeing that the Government deliberately absented themselves because they could not make up their minds how to vote, it came ill from the hon. Gentleman to get up and sneer at a discussion which he considered had been useful and, indeed, valuable. [*Laughter.*]

GENERAL LAURIE (Pembroke and Haverfordwest) rose to continue the discussion, when

MR. MICHAEL AUSTIN (Limerick, W.) moved "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The House divided:—Ayes, 68; Noes, 82.—(Division List, No. 276.)

Debate resumed.

GENERAL LAURIE said that when he was interrupted he was endeavouring to show as a member of a local authority that the local authority would be placed in an awkward position if this Bill in its present form became law. Take the case of two parishes—St. George's, Hanover Square, and Marylebone. If St. George's, Hanover Square, thought that the inhabitants of its neighbourhood needed cleansing, and erected establishments for the benefit of its people, it was more than likely that the people from other parishes would come there and ask to be cleansed. In this way the local authority of St. George's, Hanover Square, would assume a heavy responsibility if, after having erected cleansing establishments, they were to be resorted to by the inhabitants of other parishes. He thought, therefore, it would be unfair to leave the local sanitary authorities in this position. Every parish should either furnish cleansing appliances or they should not be asked to place them in the open position which the Bill provided. ["Hear, hear!"]

MR. GIBSON BOWLES opposed the Third Reading. If passed in its present form, it would, in his judgment, be absolutely inadequate to attain the object in view. It gave the local authority power to cleanse the clothing and the persons of people who needed such cleansing, but everyone who knew anything about vermin was perfectly well aware that it was not sufficient to cleanse the person and the clothes only. Further steps would have to be taken, and the process of cleansing would have to include the whole of the furniture, bedding, and everything else that had been in contact with the verminous person. He reminded the House that nowhere was personal cleanliness attended to so much as in the East, because there it was a question of religion. The people there made five ablutions a day, and nowhere, in Europe, at all events, was personal cleanliness carried out as it was in Turkey and in Persia. Yet nowhere probably in the world were more vermin to be found than in Turkey and Persia. [*Laughter.*] When one went to an inn in those countries the landlord showed the traveller the vermin; he brought out a handful. [*Laughter.*] If they were very large the traveller would pass on and would not enter the inn—[*laughter*]—if they were of a moderate size the traveller entered the inn. [*Laughter.*] This was the sober truth, and, in spite of this fact, the Mussulman's personal cleanliness and the cleanliness of his clothing was most complete. The methods proposed by this Bill were not in the least calculated to get rid of vermin. They must go far beyond the person and the clothing if the House wished to stamp out this pest. He was surprised to find that the only person who defended the Bill was the Secretary to the Local Government Board, and that hon. Gentleman defended it by giving the House of Commons a lecture which was not in the least needed, and, if needed, would come with an ill grace from him, while it would not be submitted to had he been a private and unpaid Member still. [*Laughter.*] He could not refrain from noticing the absence of almost every honourable Member whose name was on the back of the Bill. What was to be thought of the earnestness of gentlemen who, on a great historic occasion like this, were not present to say a word in favour of their Bill? Where, for example, was the honourable knight the Member for South Islington (Sir A. Rollit)? If there was ever a Member in this House who, in season and out of season, took an opportunity to make himself heard, it was the honourable knight, and yet on this occasion, when the fate of his own child was trembling in the balance, the honourable Member was probably attending some futile garden party instead of being present to defend the great project of legislation which his name sustained. [*Laughter.*] Then there was the hon. Member for Morpeth (Mr. Burt). He believed that it was partly in consequence of that honourable Member's name—a deservedly honoured name—that this Bill had arrived at its present stage. What was the House to understand by the hon. Member's absence? Hon. Members knew that the hon. Gentleman was a conscientious man, but he could not help coming to the conclusion that the absence of the hon. Member on this occasion meant that he had repented of having put his name on the back of the Bill.

MR. HAZELL: The hon. Member voted for the Bill.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES said that, at all events, the hon. Member for Morpeth, in the crisis of the Bill's fate, when the House was to decide whether the Bill was to be beheaded or to continue its miserable existence, was absent from his place. Why was this? Because, although he had voted for the Bill, he had now listened to the voice of reason—[*laughter*]—because he had reflected on the anomalous position, not only in which he would put the verminous person, but himself and the local authorities charged with the execution of the Bill. The hon. Member, therefore, had come to the conclusion that, as an honest and conscientious man, anxious above all for the promotion of public business and the passing of wholesome legislation, he could not vote for the Bill. Then the noble Lord the Member for the Chorley Division of Lancashire (Lord Balcarres) was also absent. Why? He believed that the noble Lord came from north of the Tweed. [*Laughter.*] He understood that if there was any part of the country in which an interest might be taken in this Bill, it was in the country north of the Tweed. [*Laughter.*] From duke to peasant in Scotland every one felt this to be a national question. [*Laughter.*] Why, then, was the noble Lord absent? It was clear that he was absent because he, unthinkingly and with that generosity which distinguished all his countrymen, had put his name in an unguarded moment on the back of the Bill. [*Laughter.*] What had happened since? The noble Lord had received overwhelming representations from Scotland that this Bill would be an interference with Scottish liberties, which was not to be tolerated. [*Laughter.*] From John o' Groat's to the Tweed there had been a universal cry of indignation, which had reached him, and the noble Lord had yielded to that appeal. He claimed, therefore, that the voice of Scotland had been pronounced against the Bill, that Ireland was against the Bill, and that Islington was quite solid against the Bill. [*Laughter.*] With Islington, Scotland, Ireland, and conscience combined against the Measure, who shall say them nay? [*Laughter and cheers.*] Another respected Member of that House, whose energy and perseverance he had long seen occasion to admire, was also absent. Here, again, it was probable that representations had reached the hon. Member from Ireland that the Bill was not to pass. Seeing, then, that out of five Members whose names were at the back of the Bill only one had thought fit to be present at the crisis of its fate, they were amply justified in opposing its Third Reading. [*Cheers.*]

Mr. J. CALDWELL (Lanark, Mid) said he had not intended to address any remarks to the House upon this Bill, but as the House had by a large majority rejected the Motion for closure, showing a desire for further discussion, he felt it was incumbent upon him to say a few words in support of the Third Reading. The hon. Member for Lynn Regis had referred to the Bill as having the opposition of Scotch Members, and in support of his contention remarked upon the absence of the noble Lord whose name was on the back of the Bill; but the noble Lord's absence might be due to another cause than indifference to the fate of the Measure. It was a good Bill, that was apparent, and it might well have been anticipated that it would pass unanimously. The hon. Member for Lynn Regis had moved no Amendments in Committee, and it might have been assumed that there was a general wish to see the Bill go through. So far as Scotland was concerned, he reminded the House that his country had always been among the forerunners of sanitary reform. The Public Health Act for Scotland dated from 1867, the English Measure followed in 1876. Scotland had always been a pioneer of sanitary reform, and he would venture to say there would not be a Scottish Member on his side of the House who would not be a supporter of the Third Reading of this Bill. The hon. Member for Lynn Regis had some little reason for making his reference to Scotland in the fact that not very long since a question was raised in the House in reference to matters connected with a corps of Scottish volunteers; but the House should bear in mind that there had only been a statement from the Treasury Bench, that an inquiry had been asked for and refused, and he felt quite sure that a full inquiry would clear Scotland of every imputation made by the War Office in reference to the affair. He would not have it assumed that in this matter would be found any reason for the Scottish people being opposed to a Bill of this kind. It had been made matter of complaint against the Bill that it was voluntary, not compulsory in its nature, but he was not at all sure that that was a disadvantage. The Public Health laws of Scotland and England dealt with the sanitary condition of dwellings, and in cases of infectious disease, with the disinfection of clothing and other things, but there was nothing in those laws which touched a question of this nature affecting persons afflicted with a disease of this kind, though it was a question in which public health and decency were concerned that might very well be dealt with by Parliament. In dealing with a subject of this character it was most desirable to proceed cautiously, for in an enactment restraining the liberty and interfering with the person of the subject, public sentiment must be with the law. In the measures taken for checking the plague in India public sentiment was not with the authorities; there was no co-operation on the part of the people, and trouble ensued from interference with the person of the subject under the repressive measures adopted by the Government of Bombay. This should be a warning to proceed cautiously. At first then it was well this Measure should be permissive, and eventually experience of its operation might justify the law being made compulsory. It was objected that the Bill contained no provision as regarded rating and as affecting Scotland. It was not declared whether the expenses should fall upon the rates levied or occupiers, or those to which occupiers and owners equally contributed. That was a technicality upon which the House of Lords could offer no assistance, for a question of rating was one for the House of Commons to determine, and in Committee. At the same time he did not think there was much practical importance in this question of rating. They had been told that local authorities would be free to expend a reasonable sum for this purpose, and they were further told that local authorities in London had appliances at the moment, so that there was no reason why a beginning should not be made in London, where disinfecting places and appliances would answer the purpose. The Bill did not compel local authorities to cleanse persons or employ others to do so; it only provided that if they saw fit the authorities might permit any person to have the use free of charge of the apparatus for cleansing the body from vermin. The infected person would cleanse himself, nobody else was required to do it, and he would cleanse his own clothing. If it was merely the supply of the apparatus, the authorities of London already had; if it was free use by the turning on of a tap or whatever the apparatus might be, then there would not be much expense connected with it, and on this ground there was no objection to the Bill. Other objections mentioned could be met on the passage of the Bill through the other House. It would be competent for the House of Lords to introduce a compulsory clause if that were thought desirable. In other points he quite admitted the Bill required amendment; for instance, in its application to Scotland. As every one knew, the phraseology in Scotch and English Bills differed. The third clause of the Bill declared that a local authority should mean the Council of any county borough, and in Scotland that would apply only to Edinburgh and Glasgow. Powers were given to the District Councils of any district or any Board of Guardians. They had no Boards of Guardians in Scotland, and if this Bill was applicable to Scotland, they would require that Parish Council should be substituted for Board of Guardians, and County Council and District Council in regard to the other matters. They must recognise that this Bill was imperfect from the draftsman's point of view, but at the same time they must recognise the difficulty a private Member had to get a Bill of any kind through that House. He thought, however, that it might easily be amended in the House of Lords—and, after all, what was the House of Lords for but to amend in small details Bills which passed through that House?—without taking up their time now.

Mr. J. C. FLYNN (Cork, N.) said that to his mind it was nothing short of an insult to the intelligence of the House that a Bill of this kind should be brought forward when more important Measures stood lower down on the Order Paper. He could not congratulate those who were responsible for the drafting of the Bill. The Bill applied to Ireland, but absolutely no machinery was provided to put it into operation in that country. The machinery in the Bill was applicable to England, but it was not applicable to Ireland, and therefore it would be absolutely impossible to carry it out. When he saw this Bill on the Paper he looked upon it as a kind of joke upon the intelligence of the House. They were told that persons who were so infested were to declare themselves so. Who ever heard of any person likely to do a thing of that kind? Take the poorest of the community. Were they likely to proclaim that they were in an unsanitary condition to the local authorities, or to anyone else? Were they not more likely to hide their condition? On the grounds of common sense, of draftsmanship, and of the impossibility of applying it to Ireland, he thought the House ought to reject the Bill.

Mr. RADCLIFFE COOKE (Hereford) pointed out that one of the main defects of the Bill—that relating to the financial provisions—could not be dealt with by the House of Lords. The hon. Member for Lanark made somewhat light of that defect. He told them that there were no Boards of Guardians in Scotland, but there were in England, and he believed that, if the Bill became law in its present form, individual members of those boards, supposing they chose to adopt its provisions, would be surcharged to the amount of the expenses they were put to in regard to the Bill. Those who remembered the discussion on the Parish Councils Bill would know how very particular and precise were the provisions as to where the money was to come from and what was to be done with it. Therefore, when the hon. Gentleman opposite made light of the financial aspect of the present Bill he thought he could scarcely have fully appreciated the force of the conditions laid down by the House in this matter. He would also remind the House that Section 46 of the 38 and 39 Vict., relating to Public Health—to which his attention had been called by the hon. Baronet the Member for Wigan, whose experience in matters connected with public health entitled him to speak with authority—provided that where, on the certificate of the medical officer of health, or of any two medical practitioners, it appeared to the local authority that any house or part thereof was in such a filthy condition that the health of any person was affected or endangered thereby, they should give notice, in writing, to the owner or occupier to whitewash, cleanse, or purify the same, as the case might require. If the owner or occupier failed to comply with the order, he was liable to a penalty not exceeding 10s. for every day during which he continued to make default, and the local authority could carry out the work and charge him with the expense. There were other parts of the Bill which showed that the draftsman was not familiar with drawing documents of this kind, and he must express his surprise that any Government Department should have allowed the Bill to have reached this stage without intrusting some proper person to make a few amendments. As regarded local authorities, he thought it should be compulsory upon them to take this Act, because otherwise the verminous person would not know where they could get cleansed. There was no provision in the Act authorising local authorities to make it known whether they had or had not adopted the Act, or for testing the accuracy of the statement of persons who wished to have their clothes thoroughly cleansed at the public expense. Then there was this remarkable clause—that the local authorities should be allowed to expend a reasonable sum. This House had often been engaged in discussing whether "reasonable" was a properly-defined word to insert in an Act of Parliament, and he could remember various occasions on which it had been laid down that it was not. Then, again, who was to determine what was a reasonable sum? Was the auditor to determine that, and to surcharge the local authority with all above that amount? It did appear to him that there was nothing good to be said in favour of this Bill, which had been fairly pulled to pieces in the speeches which had been made, and the contentions of the hon. Member who represented the Local Government Board that they should pass it practically without discussion was one which, he thought, he would be alone in holding.

Mr. JOHN DILLON (Mayo, E.) thought they would find considerable difficulty in accounting for the extraordinary exhibition the British House of Commons had resolved on making of itself on the present occasion, and, furthermore, in accounting for the conduct of the Government. Having brought together representatives from all parts of the Empire, the Government, who were entirely responsible for the proceedings of the House to-day, had produced this Jubilee Bill. [*A laugh.*] The discussion which had taken place to-day was due entirely to the action of the Government in specially reserving this Wednesday for the Verminous Persons Bill. Early in the Session he appealed to the Government to reserve a Wednesday for the consideration of an Irish Land Bill, but they refused to do so. There had been no legislation for Ireland during the Session, but he and his hon. Friends were to be sent back to Ireland with a Verminous Persons Bill—[*laughter*]—as the only result of five months of continuous attendance at the House.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL remarked that the Government had nothing to do with this Bill being the First Order. The Bill was the First Order by the Rules of the House, and not by the fixing of the Government.

MR. DILLON asked why the Government exempted this Wednesday. [*Cries of* "Oh!"] He maintained that the Government were entirely responsible for this scandalous exhibition.

*MR. SPEAKER said that the hon. Member would not be in order in discussing on this Bill the policy of the Government in taking or giving any particular Wednesday.

MR. DILLON believed he was going a little out of order—[*laughter*]—but his feelings got the better of him. [*Renewed laughter.*] The British House of Commons was certainly placed in a ridiculous position, and, although he would be out of order in discussing the strategy or the policy of the Government in bringing about that position, he would be in order in drawing attention to the condition of the Government Bench. There was only a subordinate member of the Government (Mr. T. W. Russell) present; the Leader of the House and all the responsible Members of the Government were absent, and did not seem to be in the least concerned with the honour of the House and the dignity of its proceedings. They had been discussing for three hours a Bill that no vestry in the country would condescend to print. This was an unnecessary and a disgusting Bill—[*laughter*]—and it was entirely unworthy—he would not say of this House, because it was very hard to say what was worthy of it—entirely unworthy of any assembly of intelligent men to spend hours in discussing it.

Question put. The House divided:—Ayes, 135; Noes, 82.—(Division List, No. 277.)

Bill read the Third time, and passed.

PLUMBERS' REGISTRATION BILL.

Order for further proceeding on Consideration, as amended (by the Standing Committee), read,

Bill further considered.

Clause 3,—

GENERAL COUNCIL.

A council, which shall be styled the "General Council of Plumbers' Education and Registration," hereinafter referred to as "the General Council," shall be established, as hereinafter provided.

The General Council shall consist of the following members (that is to say):

(1.) Representing England and Wales, exclusive of the administrative county of London—

Eight master plumbers, builders, ironmongers, sanitary engineers, or other persons carrying on any trade or business employing plumbers, eight operative plumbers, and eight persons being members of the council of a borough or other urban or rural council within the meaning of the Local Government Act 1894, or medical officers of health, or inspectors of nuisances.

(2.) Representing Scotland—

Two master plumbers, two operative plumbers, and two persons being members of a local authority within the meaning of the Public Health (Scotland) Act 1867, or any Acts amending the same, or medical officers or sanitary inspectors of such local authority.

(3.) Representing Ireland—

Two master plumbers, two operative plumbers, and two persons being members of a local authority within the meaning of the Public Health (Ireland) Act 1878, or medical officers of health or sanitary inspectors;

elected by the vote of the majority of such persons as may be entitled to be present and voting at meetings to be held in the cities and towns enumerated in Schedule A of this Act, such meetings to be held before the first day of January, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight, and subsequently every five years, and to be convened by the Company by a notice in the form set out in the schedule to be published in newspapers circulating in the respective cities, towns, and districts which are to be represented: Provided always, that not more than two persons resident in the same district shall be eligible for election under this sub-section.

(4.) Representing the Administrative County of London—

Two master plumbers elected by the London Branch of the National Association of Master Plumbers of Great Britain and Ireland, two operative plumbers elected by the United Operative Plumbers' Association of Great Britain and Ireland, two persons elected by the Company, and two persons elected by the London County Council to represent the "Technical Education Board," and the "Public Health Committee" thereof respectively.

(5.) The president or other elected member of the National Association of Master Plumbers of Great Britain and Ireland.

(6.) The president or other elected member of the United Operative Plumbers' Association of Great Britain and Ireland.

(7.) The president or other elected member of the Operative Plumbers' Association of Scotland.

(8.) And such number of persons not exceeding twenty as may be elected by the above enumerated members of the General Council from the nominees of the bodies named in Schedule B. of this Act, or other bodies having kindred objects.

Mr. J. BRIGG (York, W.R., Keighley) moved in the first paragraph after the word "established," to insert the words "in each county and borough council area in England, Wales, and Scotland." His object was to give to the local authorities, who knew the needs and wants of the localities, the power to carry out the Act. He believed this Amendment would simplify very largely the whole scope and object of the Bill. That object was to secure good work, and that it should be done by plumbers who had a certain qualification. He did not wish to elaborate. His object was to have a general council in each county and borough area.

Mr. T. P. WHITTAKER (York, W.R., Spen Valley) said that the Minister who had charge of the Bill ought to be obliged to Members on that side of the House who were trying to put this imperfect Bill into shape. With the Amendments the Bill would be quite another scheme. He thought the hon. Member in charge of the Bill ought to be obliged to any one who took the trouble to attempt to draft a scheme to get out of the difficulty in which he was placed. As to this particular Amendment he was free to confess that he did not think it was much of an improvement. He was not in favour of electing a general council for each county, for he thought it would produce a good deal of variety in practice. If there was to be registration and examination there ought to be uniformity.

Question put, "That those words be there inserted." The House divided:—Ayes, 70; Noes, 166.—(Division List, No. 278.)

Mr. COURTENAY WARNER moved to leave out all after the word "establishment" to the end of the clause, in order to insert the words "under rules to be made by the Local Government Board."

Mr. T. W. RUSSELL submitted, as a point of order, that this Amendment was divided on last Wednesday.

*Sir CHARLES DILKE (Gloucester, Forest of Dean) said that as a matter of fact that was not so. The Amendment he moved was as to the date, though he mentioned his intention of moving an Amendment of this sort. ["Hear, hear!"]

Mr. WARNER, continuing, said that this matter was only mentioned incidentally in Debate. There was no division upon it. His object was to render it possible to pass the Bill in the time at the disposal of its supporters. The clause before the House and the schedules were far too complicated to admit of their being discussed with any adequacy in what remained of that sitting. A whole page of the Bill was devoted to the subject of the constitution of the Council, and there was in addition a long schedule setting out the various bodies which were to be entitled to nominate candidates for election as members of the general council. Some of these bodies had no claim in his opinion to nominate representatives. He observed that in the schedule there was no mention of the county of Oxford, which would therefore be unrepresented on the Council. Another curious arrangement was that the representatives of Wiltshire would have to go to Bristol, whose connection with Wiltshire was neither close nor obvious. Details of this kind must be thoroughly discussed if the clause was not withdrawn. The only practical course open to the supporters of the Bill was to agree to delegate some of the authority of that House to the Local Government Board, and to empower that Department to frame rules for the constitution of the Plumbers' Council. The Board's experience in connection with Parish Council and District Council elections qualified it to deal with this matter.

MR. JOHN BURNS (Battersea) wished to hear the views of the secretary to the Local Government Board on this suggestion. Under the complicated scheme provided in the Bill, simplicity and uniformity of registration could not be hoped for. The Local Government Board was well qualified by its past experience to frame rules for the formation of the proposed general council, and the sanitary education of our plumbers was surely a matter in which the Board ought to take a special interest. The schedule connected with this clause was contradictory, and in some points ridiculous, and it was patent that no scheme of registration attempted to be carried out under the conditions laid down in the schedule, would be practicable. The officials of the Board had damned this Bill with faint praise, and the Secretary to the Board apparently did not know what attitude to take up. But in matters concerning the public health, the Local Government Board was the paramount authority under Parliament, and, therefore, he appealed to the hon. Member for South Tyrone either to accept on behalf of the Board the responsibility of drawing up the regulations contemplated by the mover of the Amendment, or to explain to the House why such responsibility could not be assumed. If the heads of the Local Government Board objected to incur the expense that would be entailed by the appointment of the additional officials who would be required in order that this Bill might be worked efficiently, he would ask them what right they had to expect voluntary associations to incur that expense. In his opinion they had no right to relegate to voluntary associations, composed possibly of interested persons, duties which ought to be performed by the State through its paid and disinterested officials.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL said that he was at a disadvantage in discussing this Amendment, because he had not seen its precise terms. The hon. Member who had moved it said that the same question was raised last Wednesday.

MR. COURTENAY WARNER explained that he handed in the Amendment last Wednesday, but that by some accident it had not been printed. The subject was referred to in the discussion.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL repeated that he was at some disadvantage in consequence of the non-appearance of the Amendment on the Paper. As a matter of fact, however, the same proposal that was now made was made in the Standing Committee, and was so unpopular that a Division was not even taken, the hon. Member who was responsible for the Amendment withdrawing it. The hon. Members who had spoken to-day proposed to lay a very serious duty upon the Local Government Board, a Department which was overburdened with work already. The provision in the Bill in regard to the appointment of the general council had been carefully considered by the Local Government Board, and they were of opinion that the schedule was adequate for the purpose. Considering the work the Local Government Board had to do, he must decline on behalf of the Board to undertake the proposed responsibility.

*SIR F. POWELL said he was glad the Government had adopted the position announced by his hon. Friend. He had been greatly surprised when he heard the Amendment proposed, as it was a proposal to give the Local Government Board power to constitute the authority, a proposal which he believed would be entirely without precedent.

MR. COURTENAY WARNER said the power was not to constitute the authority but to make the rules for the constitution of the authority.

*SIR F. POWELL said that was exactly the point, the authority was constituted by the rules. Parliament had never given such powers hitherto to any Department of the State, and he believed such a proposition was most dangerous in itself, and was really fatal to the scheme.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL said he would, with the permission of the House, read Section 14 of Schedule C, which was:—

> "The Local Government Board may make any additional rules which may appear to them to be necessary for the purpose of giving effect to the objects of this Schedule, and such rules shall have the same force as if they were included in this schedule."

MR. W. E. M. TOMLINSON (Preston) said as he was the author of an Amendment which had been referred to, he would say that he had proposed, not that the Local Government Board should establish machinery for the election of a body, but should in the first instance nominate the body, and should put its elaborate machinery into place. It had appeared to him that it should have its beginning in some recognised authority. But the difficulty had been to a great extent met by the substitution of the new Schedule.

SIR J. BLUNDELL MAPLE (Camberwell, Dulwich) said he could not understand a Government complaining that too much work was put upon one of its Departments; if a Measure like this was necessary for the well-being of the community he thought the Government ought to take it in hand. But he considered that plumbers had no more right to be examined than bricklayers or any other class. ["Hear, hear!"] It ought to be the duty of the Local Government Board to see that architects, surveyors, engineers, and foremen of building works were properly qualified as well as plumbers. The plumber, after all, carried out his work under the instructions of the architect and of the foreman of the works. How were the men to suffer who did not carry out the work properly? The right body to form the regulations, if such a Bill was necessary, was the Local Government Board, and, therefore, he should support the Amendment.

*SIR JOHN LUBBOCK (London University) said the question was whether they were to drop the latter part of the Bill and place the matter entirely with the Local Government Board. He understood that the main ground why the Local Government Board refused this duty was in consequence of the character of the duty. Surely it was for the House to say what should be done, and then doubtless it would be carried out adequately by the officials of the Local Government Board. No doubt there were cases in which they must leave matters of rule to different Departments of the Government, but he thought these ought to be confined as far as possible to matters of detail and not of principle. He thought his hon. Friend was perfectly right in declining to undertake these duties. It was the business of the Local Government Board to adminster the law; but legislation was the duty of this House. They would be abdicating their function if they accepted this Amendment.

MR. G. W. WOLFF (Belfast, E.) thought it was of the greatest importance that the examinations should be of a uniform character. If the work were handed over to the Local Government Board the public would be certain that the examination were real and thorough in every respect.

MR. LEES KNOWLES (Salford, W.) did not think the Local Government Board had the practical and theoretic knowledge of plumbing necessary to conduct the examinations.

GENERAL LAURIE said that in the schedule of the Bill there was a provision that the Local Government Board might make any additional rules or regulations they thought necessary; and the system by which the elected body was to carry out the Bill was so defective that ultimately the Local Government Board would have to undertake the work proposed to be thrown on them by the Amendment, whether the Amendment were carried or not.

SIR HENRY FOWLER (Wolverhampton, E.) said his experience of the Local Government Board was that it was very much undermanned and very much overworked, and that the administration of matters ten times more important than anything concerned with this Bill was being delayed throughout the whole length and breadth of the land owing to the incapability of the Local Government Board to grapple with the various questions brought before it. On that ground, therefore, he could not vote for the Amendment. The House was anxious to throw everything on the Local Government Board, and then when the Board did their best they were attacked for what they were doing. When the Parish Councils Act was passing through the House he opposed the placing of the arrangement and control of the elections in the hands of the Local Government Board and urged that a scheme for the purpose should be settled by the House itself. But the House insisted on placing the work on the shoulders of the Local Government Board, with the result that ever since 1894 the action of the Board in the matter has been subjected to criticism. He would therefore ask the House to pause before it placed any additional work on the Local Government Board.

*SIR JOHN BRUNNER (Cheshire, Northwich) said he had for many years the greatest sympathy for the Local Government Board, for it was a very much over-worked Department. When they remembered the amount of work that was thrown on the Local Government Board by the legislation of the last 12 years, and then reflected that during those 12 years not a single clerk had been added to the Department, it was impossible not to sympathise with the protest of the Secretary to the Board. The hon. Gentleman objected to the Amendment because it would add to the labours of the Local Government Board. But the hon. Gentleman pointed out in entire contradiction to himself, that the Local Government Board was to be endowed with those very powers to make rules and regulations by a paragraph in the schedule; and any one that had any experience in those matters must know that the preparation of those rules would entail as much labour on the Department as if they had accepted the Amendment that made a clean job of it at the beginning.

Question put, "That the words from the word 'established,' to the word 'say,' in line 15, inclusive, stand part of the Bill."

The House divided:—Ayes, 199; Noes, 99.—(Division List, No. 279.)

MR. WHITTAKER moved, to leave out from Sub-section (1) to the end of the clause, and to insert—

"(1) One representative nominated before the first day of January, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight, by each of the bodies enumerated in Schedule B.

"(2) Ten employers of plumbers, six of whom shall be carrying on business in England, two in Scotland, and two in Ireland, and ten operative plumbers, six of whom shall be working in England, two in Scotland, and two in Ireland.

"Provided that—

(*a*) Schedule B may, by the General Council and with the consent of the Local Government Board, be revised in the year one thousand nine hundred and three, and subsequently every five years, by leaving out the names of bodies and adding others, as may seem to the General Council and the Local Government Board to be expedient;

(*b*) The first representatives of employers of plumbers and of operative plumbers shall be selected at a meeting to be convened by the Company before the first day of January, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight, and consisting of those master plumbers and operative plumbers who have previously been registered by the Company, and at subsequent quinquennial elections the said representatives shall be selected by and from such employers of plumbers and operative plumbers respectively as have been, at the time of the selection, duly registered under the provisions of this Act."

He said that the general arrangements in the Bill for the election of a general council were clumsy and unsatisfactory; and as the council was to discharge the most important and responsible duties, it was highly necessary that it should be a competent and impartial body. That was not secured by the scheme of the Bill. His Amendment would obviate the necessity for huge meetings all over the country to elect representatives on the council. It seemed to him, indeed, that the scheme as set forth in the Bill would break down. There was no arrangement for paying the expenses of members of the council, and the result would be that only those persons who were directly interested, only those who had axes to grind, would attend the meetings and elect persons likeminded with themselves. Thus they would get a general council consisting almost entirely of plumbers and persons acceptable to plumbers, and they would set themselves to frame bye-laws, rules, and regulations in such a way as would create a monopoly in the trade. If they were to have a registration of plumbers let there be an efficient general council, let it represent the educational and sanitary bodies of the community as well as the working and master plumbers, and then they would have an efficient body to whom could be entrusted the registration of the trade, but the scheme of the Bill was cumbersome and unworkable.

Mr. LEES KNOWLES opposed the Amendment on behalf of the promoters of the Bill. It offered no adequate machinery, whereas the constitution of the general council under the Bill was most carefully considered by the Grand Committee, who made the general council as representative as possible of plumbers, sanitary persons, and other individuals who would be effective members of it. He could not see how in any particular the proposed new general council was any improvement upon the one in the Bill.

Sir J. B. MAPLE preferred the constitution of the general council set out in the Amendment to that in the Bill. For instance, what did ironmongers know about the examination of plumbers? Besides, he did not see how those bodies were to be chosen. Who was to decide who were to be the "eight master plumbers and so on." The council was to exist for five years, and there appeared to be no provision for people dying and substituting others in their place. The Amendment itself was by no means perfect, but if he had to choose between two evils he preferred it to the plan of the Bill.

General LAURIE fould fault with the Bill that it contained no provision for the representation of educational experts. They wanted theory as well as practice. This was provided by the Amendment, and, therefore, he thought it offered a decided advantage, though it was not everything he would like.

Mr. JOHN BURNS hesitated to support the Amendment, because it had many of the defects and objections of the Bill itself, but, if he had to choose, he should accept the Amendment on the ground that it simplified the machinery of the Bill. He could not understand why they should introduce the practical interests of the trade to such an extent. He believed that many Members in voting for this system of registration had been mistaken, and when they proposed to put it in the hands of plumbers, ironmongers, and sanitary engineers, and others pecuniarily interested in the trade they were adopting the worst means by which an efficient and impartial registration could be brought about. He believed that if they wanted to prevent that kind of thing and the lamentable results that sprung from it, they could not do worse than place the education and the registration of plumbers in the hands of a trade who might formulate a system of registration diametrically opposed to public health and the improvement of the plumbing profession, but which incidentally might be to the advantage of the employers and operative plumbers. Let the House take an instance. They were all interested in saving the lives of colliers in a mine, in seeing that the sanitary condition of our local drains were as good as they ought to be; but fancy the Home Office submitting to the colliery owners the management of our coal mines, and removing from the Home Office the impartial, and to a certain extent the arbitrary power it possessed of determining the purity of the atmosphere in mines, the safety of the chains and the winding gear. What would be the result? Many colliers would probably submit to the lax conditions of working, because it might lead to their temporarily earning more money; and many owners would probably submit on the ground that more coal would be brought to the surface. But the House of Commons had sensibly refused to allow anything of the kind. It had set up an educated, expert, technical authority, who had laid down conditions for the working of mines in the interest of saving life and property. If the House allowed the very basis of public health, which was good workmanship, to be regulated and dominated by the conditions imposed by interested men, then less would be thought of the interests of public health, and they would probably use their form of registration to give preference to unskilled men who could squeeze through the examination, and for the protection of master plumbers who might be members of a City Company, all excellent fellows in themselves, but scarcely honest masters in seeing the best work done for their customers. The House ought not to allow a self-elected, cumbrous, and interested body to do that which only one authority ought to have the power to do. If registration of plumbers was desirable—and he thought it was not—who was the authority who should draw up the conditions of registration? It was the Medical Officer of Health in the district, in conjunction with the Sanitary Inspector. The Bill, however, ruled out the sanitary authority, and excluded the Local Government Board; it did not give the educational institutions the representaton and power they ought to possess; it set up a mutual admiration society with the City Plumbers' Company as the feasting centre, and around it the House would see men ostensibly working in the interests of public health, but really preventing plumbing from making that progress which it ought to make. He supported the Amendment on the broad ground above stated, and because he objected to setting up for the so-called improvement of the trade a body of men whose only object in promoting this Bill was to create a monopoly which he believed would permanently prove to be detrimental to public health. ["Hear, hear!"]

Question, "That the words from the word 'say,' to the word 'master,' in line 18, stand part of the Bill," put, and agreed to.

And, it being half-past Five of the clock, further proceeding on consideration, as amended, stood adjourned.

Bill, as amended, to be further considered To-morrow.

LOCOMOTIVES ON HIGHWAYS BILL.

Consideration, as amended (by the Standing Committee), deferred till To-morrow.

PARLIAMENTARY FRANCHISE (EXTENSION TO WOMEN) BILL.

Committee deferred till Wednesday next.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS (IRELAND) BILL.

Committee deferred till Monday next.

VEHICLES (LIGHTS) BILL.

Committee deferred till Wednesday, 21st July.

FACTORY ACTS (FISHING TRADE) BILL.

Committee deferred till Monday, 19th July.

SERVICE FRANCHISE BILL.

Committee deferred till Monday next.

ARCHDEACONRY OF LONDON (ADDITIONAL ENDOWMENTS) BILL.

Considered in Committee. Clause 1:—Committee report progress; to sit again To-morrow.

COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEAL BILL.

Adjourned Debate on Motion for Committal to Select Committee [24th March] further adjourned till Wednesday next.

SUMMARY JURISDICTION ACT (1879) AMENDMENT BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Wednesday next.

LAW OF LIBEL AMENDMENT BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Wednesday next.

MERCHANT SHIPPING BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Wednesday next.

PENSIONS (OLD AGE) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Wednesday, 21st July.

DISTRICT COUNCILS (WATER SUPPLY FACILITIES) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Wednesday next.

SUPPLY.

Committee deferred till Friday.

WAYS AND MEANS.

Committee deferred till Friday.

JURORS' EXPENSES BILL.

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

RAILWAY RETURN TICKETS BILL.

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

PARISH REGISTERS BILL.

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

LAND TRANSFER [CONSOLIDATED FUND].

Report thereupon deferred till To-morrow.

CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD (IRELAND) (COMPULSORY PURCHASE POWERS) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

LICENSING EXEMPTION (HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

House Adjourned at Twenty-five Minutes before Six o'Clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Thursday, 8th July 1897.

VOLUNTEERS BILL.

Considered in Committee.

[The Chairman of Committees, the Earl of Morley, in the Chair.]

Clause 1,—

EXPLANATION OF 26 & 27 VICT. C. 65, SS. 24, 27.

For removing doubts it is hereby declared that the power under section twenty-four of the Volunteer Act 1863, to make rules with respect to a volunteer corps shall extend, and be deemed to have always extended, to rules for securing the efficiency of the members of the corps, and that a fine for the breach of any rule made under that power shall not be deemed to be a civil debt.

*The SECRETARY of STATE for WAR (The Marquess of Lansdowne): I have to propose an Amendment to this clause, which has been prepared with the object of placing a limitation, and I think a desirable limitation, on the power conferred by this Bill of recovering fines from Volunteers by means of proceedings in a Court of summary jurisdiction. I explained to the House the other evening that the object of the Bill is to make it clear that the power conferred by Section 24 of the Volunteer Act 1863, extends to making rules which have reference not only to the management of the property or the finances or the civil affairs of the corps, but also to rules affecting the efficiency of the corps. Under the operation of Sections 27 and 28 of the Act of 1863, fines imposed under any of these rules may be recovered by proceedings before a Court of summary jurisdiction, and it has been argued, and I think argued with some force, that, given general powers of making rules of this character, and also an unrestricted power of recovery in a Court of summary jurisdiction, there would be nothing to prevent that which is now a civil liability being dealt with as if it were a criminal offence. ["Hear, hear!"] In order to meet this objection I propose to insert the words of which I have given notice, the effect of which will be to limit the provision for recovery of fines to fines imposed under rules made for the purpose of securing the efficiency of the corps, so that the power may not extend to fines imposed in connection with the management of the finances, or what might be spoken of as the domestic affairs of the corps. I feel sure that the Amendment will commend itself to the noble Earl (Earl of Wemyss), who, I know, takes an interest in the Bill. I beg to move to leave out the words, "rule made under that power," and to insert the words, "such rule for securing efficiency."

The Earl of WEMYSS said that when the Bill first appeared there stood in the second clause, which his noble Friend had given notice to omit, the very ugly word "imprisonment," and his fear was that under this Bill Volunteers would lose their civil rights and be put in a different position from other civilians. The whole life and soul of the Volunteer force was its civil character; it was never under military law, except when called out for duty; in other respects Volunteers were in the position of other civilians. But the Bill, he feared, would have placed Volunteers in a different position from other civilians who were not liable to imprisonment for non-payment of debt except under special circumstances where a Court found a man could pay and refused to pay. Otherwise imprisonment for debt had been abolished, and it seemed to him unreasonable to bring it into play again against Volunteers. To the Amendment of his noble Friend he offered no objection, thanking him for his endeavour to meet his wishes, and anything he might have to say upon the Bill he would reserve for the Third Reading.

*The Marquess of LANSDOWNE: The noble Earl will understand that the power to recover fines by proceedings in a Court of summary jurisdiction will be limited strictly to fines for an offence which, when committed by a Volunteer, virtually amounts to a denial of his services to the country after he has received at the expense of the corps certain advantages in consideration of those services being forthcoming when required. That is distinctly a fraud on the part of the Volunteer.

Amendment agreed to; Clause, as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 2,—

TERMINATION OF IMPRISONMENT.

If, before the expiration of the term of such imprisonment, such a proportion of the fine be paid that the term of imprisonment suffered is not less than proportional to the part of the fine still unpaid, the imprisonment shall terminate.

*THE MARQUESS OF **LANSDOWNE** moved the omission of this clause. He said it was inserted in the House of Commons, and, as was pointed out on the Second Reading, it came before the House in a shape in which it could not possibly be allowed to stand. Since then attention had been called to the fact that a Bill promoted by the Home Department was now before the other House dealing with the prisons question, in one clause of which power would be taken in cases of persons imprisoned for non-payment of fines to accept a portion of the amount and to reduce the term of imprisonment by a number of days bearing the same proportion to the whole length of the term as the sum paid bore to the whole amount of the fine. The point was one which could be more conveniently dealt with by amendment of the general law, and therefore he proposed to omit the clause altogether.

Clause struck out.

Clause 3,—

SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the Volunteer Act 1897.

Clause ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Standing Committee negatived; the Report of Amendment to be received To-morrow; and Bill to be printed as amended.—(No. 150.)

EXTRAORDINARY TITHE BILL.

Read 3^{a} (according to Order), and passed.

MARKET GARDENERS' COMPENSATI (SCOTLAND) BILL.

On the Order for Third Reading,

THE EARL OF **WEMYSS** asked wheth this Bill was absolutely on all fours wi the Agricultural Holdings Act with ref ence to tenants' improvements?

LORD **REAY** said the Bill was ab lutely identical with the Market G deners Act, 1895, with such alteratio as suited the conditions peculiar Scotland.

Read 3^{a} (according to Order), a passed.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS (SCOTLAND BILL [H.L.].

*THE **SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAN** (Lord BALFOUR), in moving the Secon Reading of this Bill, explained that i object was to allow returning office at municipal elections in Scotland t make the same claim on the use o buildings used as public schools as the were now able to do in Parliamentar elections, County Council elections, an Parish Council elections. For som reason or other the provision wa omitted in regard to municipal elections and the Scotch Education Departmen were therefore in a difficulty as t counting the days when the school was so used for municipal elections when making up the number of school attendances. In each year 400 openings were required as a condition of the school grant, and under the Code, whenever a schoolroom was used for other purposes under statutory powers, the day when the school was so used was counted as a day when the school was opened. The sole object of the Bill was to place returning officers, in the case of municipal elections, in the same position as in the case of the other elections mentioned.

Read 2^{a} (according to Order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House To-morrow.

CHAFF-CUTTING MACHINES (ACCIDENTS) BILL.

Brought from the Commons; Read 1^{a}, and to be printed.—(No. 151.)

VERMINOUS PERSONS BILL.

Brought from the Commons; Read 1^a; to be printed; and to be Read 2^a on Monday next—(*The Earl of Stamford*).—[No. 152.]

VOLUNTARY SCHOOLS ASSOCIATIONS.

The following Questions stood upon the Notice Paper:—

LORD WANTAGE: To ask the Lord President of the Council the following Questions with reference to the formation of Associations of Voluntary Schools:

Whether the Education Department will take steps to prevent the supporters and managers of Voluntary Schools in Berkshire from being deprived of their right to have effect given to their choice of the county as the area of association:

Whether his attention has been called to the fact that, prior to the meeting of the Oxford Diocesan Conference in May last, the rural deans issued circulars to the correspondents of the school managers throughout the county of Berks asking them to ascertain if their co-managers were willing to join an association of schools for the county; and (if willing to join such an association) to elect two representatives to be thereafter summoned to a meeting by the rural deans for the purpose of electing two delegates for each rural deanery, such delegates to form the governing body of the county association. That, the consent of the managers having been so obtained to a county association, the Oxford Diocesan Conference met and passed a resolution that the area should be the diocese and not the county. That, thereupon, the representatives whom the managers elected for the purpose of carrying out the scheme of a county association were induced in many cases to proceed with the election of delegates for a diocesan scheme without any fresh application to the managers for authority to consent to such an important change:

And whether returns are being made to the Education Department that the managers have selected the diocese as the area of association notwithstanding the above facts, and in disregard of the resolution to the contrary passed at a meeting of school managers for the county held at Reading on the 12th instant; and of the important Petition to the Department signed by the Lord Lieutenant, the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the County Council, all the County and Borough Members in Berks, and a large number of the Magistrates and Members of the County Council?

LORD HENEAGE: To ask the Lord President of the Council:

Whether any Voluntary Schools Associations have yet been sanctioned by the Education Department under the Voluntary Schools Act 1897?

Whether it is intended to extend the period for the formation of such associations under the Act in consequence of the delay and difficulties which have arisen by the attempt to force a purely diocesan association on the Church of England Schools in the county of Lincoln and other counties:

Whether his attention has been called to the fact that the Lincolnshire Diocesan Board of Education had formulated a scheme for a county undenominational Association which had received the general approval of the lay and clerical managers of schools in the rural parishes throughout the county:

Whether the following statements circulated through the rural deans are accurate, namely, that a diocesan Association had been formed in Lincolnshire under Section (1), (3), of the Voluntary Schools Act, 1897, before the 2nd of June; that if a school is not associated speedily it will be too late for this year's grant as an associated school; and that a school not associated is acting in opposition to the wish of the Education Department, whilst a school which associates this year with a diocesan association can withdraw next year and be in no worse position:

And, further, what steps the Government propose to take for the assistance and protection of undenominational schools, as well as British and other mixed schools which are only technically Church of England schools, in those counties where diocesan associations may be formed, especially in Lincolnshire?

THE LORD CHANCELLOR (Lord HALSBURY) said he had received a letter from the most rev. Prelate the Archbishop of Canterbury, and from two or three other members of the Episcopal Bench who wished to address their Lordships on the subject of these Questions, stating that they had been summoned by Her Majesty to Windsor, and were therefore unable to attend in their places that day. Under these circumstances they asked him to request the noble Lords to postpone their Questions until they were able to attend.

LORD WANTAGE said he at once acceded to the request made by the Lord Chancellor, and would postpone his Questions until Monday.

LORD HENEAGE also signified his acquiescence in this course.

*VISCOUNT PORTMAN asked the President of the Council whether the question of the larger area for associated Voluntary schools was to be decided by the votes of a majority of schools in a county, or by those of a majority in the diocese of which such county formed a part? He said this was a very simple matter, which could very easily be decided for them by the Lord President. The diocese of Salisbury consisted of the whole county of Dorset and a large portion of the county of Wilts. The portion of the county of Wilts had declared their preference for the diocesan area, but the county of Dorset was divided as nearly as possible evenly on the question. He had taken a great deal of trouble to ascertain the wishes of school managers, and he had answers from 115 schools in support of the county area, and from 112 schools in support of the diocesan area. He understood the right rev, Prelate the Bishop of Salisbury wished to count against the wishes of Dorset the wishes of the Wiltshire schools, who were, he understood, all in favour of the diocesan area. The purport of his question was whether the Lord President would allow the wishes of the Wiltshire schools to swamp the very marked wishes of the Dorset schools?

THE LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL (The Duke of DEVONSHIRE): In reply to my noble Friend, I have to say that provisional approval has already been given to a diocesan association for the diocese of Salisbury. That, however, will not preclude the formation of a county association for the county of Dorset, if a sufficient number of managers of schools in the county should appear to be in favour of such an association. I understand that it is the wish of the Bishop of Salisbury himself that if my noble Friend is able to obtain sufficient support to the county scheme which he proposes, that scheme should be approved, as it is far from his wish that any school should be forced into an association to which it objects to belong.

DELAGOA BAY ARBITRATION.

THE EARL OF MAYO asked Her Majesty's Government whether they had any information as to the award concerning the Delagoa Bay Railway, or whether they could say when that award was likely to be made public. It would be in their Lordships' recollection, he said, that some years ago the Portuguese Government seized the Delagoa Bay Railway, and that the bondholders interested in the matter managed to get it referred to arbitration. The arbitration had almost become ancient history now, and he supposed that the arbitrators would, in the sweet by-and-bye, give their award. He thought the amount in which Englishmen were interested was £743,000 odd. There was a question answered the other day in another place, when it was stated that the long delay which had taken place was due in equal proportions to the successive applications of both parties. He was credibly informed that the Portuguese were the people who had put in other claims and so delayed the arbitration.

THE PRIME MINISTER (The Marquess of SALISBURY): I am afraid that arbitrations are emulating the ancient reputation of the Court of Chancery, and if there were a Dickens in these days to write about them, a Jarndyce against Jarndyce might be found without difficulty in their records. The delay, I quite agree with my noble Friend, is something quite extraordinary, but when he asks me to apportion the responsibility of delay between the two sides of the case, I am wholly unable to do so. It is obvious that any delay that has taken place has taken place with the sanction of the tribunal, and I do not think you can go beyond its decision in order to blame the party, whoever it may be, by whose application any delay has happened. If my noble Friend asks me what the prospects of the arbitration are, I have to answer to him that I am informed that the decision will be speedily given—["hear, hear!"]—but I am afraid I shall not carry much comfort to his mind if I tell him that the same information has been supplied to me for several years past. [*Laughter.*]

THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY: And also to me.

THE PRIME MINISTER: And also to the noble Lord opposite. [*Laughter.*] Therefore I fear I must leave my noble Friend to such consolation as he may be able to obtain from the reflection that after all he is supporting the sacred principle of arbitration. [*Laughter.*]

House Adjourned at Five Minutes before Five o'Clock, till To-morrow, a Quarter past Ten o'Clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Thursday, 8th July 1897.

PRIVATE BUSINESS.

DUBLIN CORPORATION BILL.

On the consideration of the Lords' Amendments to this Bill,

MR. W. JOHNSTON (Belfast, S.) said that he desired to express his regret that the other House of Parliament should have struck out of the Bill the Clause relating to the Women's Franchise; but, as he was aware of the necessity that existed for a proper water supply for Dublin, he would not take any further step in the matter.

Lords' Amendments agreed to.

QUESTIONS.

EXPERIMENTS ON LIVING ANIMALS.

MR. JOHN ELLIS (Nottingham, Rushcliffe): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether the figures of experiments on living animals contained in Return No. 239 of this Session are obtained from the licensees who perform them, and in that case whether any steps are taken to verify their accuracy; (2) whether each of the "licensed places" was inspected during the year to which the Return relates, and how many of them more than once; whether any of the visits of inspection were surprise visits, and, if so, how many; and (3) whether he has personally satisfied himself that the licences and certificates are all issued only to such places and persons, and with such objects, as are contemplated by the Cruelty to Animals Act, 1876?

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. JESSE COLLINGS, Birmingham, Bordesley): Yes, the returns are obtained from the licensees, and the check, of course, upon them is supplied by the visits of the inspectors, which with a few exceptions, are paid without notice. Four registered places at which no licences were in force, and the laboratory attached to the Board of Agriculture, which was only registered on the 1st of December, were unvisited during the year. Five places were visited once only, eight twice, 25 three times, two four times, three five times, and one six times. No licensee was found during any of these visits to be exceeding his powers. The answer to the last paragraph of the Question is in the affirmative.

QUEEN'S COLLEGES (IRELAND).

MR. LEES KNOWLES (Salford, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he is aware that professional professors in Queen's Colleges in Ireland are placed by The Colleges Act, 1845 (8 and 9 Vict. c. 66), and the College Statutes, as regards appointment, tenure of office, and duties, in the same position as the Arts professors, and that they fulfil the only two conditions laid down by the Superannuation Act of 1859 (22 Vict. c. 26) as qualifying for pensions, namely, appointment by the Crown, and payment from the Consolidated Fund: and whether, considering that the professional as well as the Arts professors in the Scotch Universities receive pensions on retirement, he would explain on what grounds the Treasury, while admitting the right of the Arts professors, refuse to grant pensions to the professional professors in the Queen's Colleges in Ireland.

THE SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. R. W. HANBURY, Preston): The Queen's Colleges Act of 1845 does not bear upon the question of the pensionable rights of the professors. These rights (if any) are determined by the Superannuation Act 1859. Section 2 of the latter Act vests the ultimate decision of pension claims in the Treasury, "whose decision shall be final," and in the exercise of this power it has been the invariable practice of the Treasury to decline to admit as pensionable any officer who is not required to give his whole time to the duties of his office. The Queen's College professional professors, who are not so required, are therefore excluded. The grant of pensions to the Scotch University professors was transferred from the control of the Government to that of the Universities by the Universities (Scotland) Act 1889. Before that date they were pensioned, not under the Superannuation Act of 1859, but under the Universities (Scotland) Act 1858, which gave the Treasury no power to require whole time. Their case therefore is not, and never has been, analogous to that of the Queen's College professors.

MR. LEES KNOWLES asked who was the authority to determine whether the outside occupation of these professors was inconsistent with the performance of their college duties?

MR. HANBURY said the question did not arise whether it was the college as represented by the President of the Council that was the authority to determine whether the outside occupations of these professors were inconsistent with the performance of their college duties. It was a question whether they gave their whole time, and it was admitted that they did not, since they undertook private practice. It was because of that that the Treasury refused them a pension.

ALDERSHOT REVIEW.

COLONEL WELBY (Taunton): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether he can state how many Staff and Acting Staff Officers were on duty, detached from their own corps, at the Review at Aldershot on 1st July: and, whether he can state, from official reports, or other sources the number of Staff and Acting Staff Officers usually employed with a force of similar strength in the German Army?

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): Seventeen Officers detached from their corps were employed on the staff at the Aldershot review of the 1st inst. According to the regulations of the German Army, it is estimated by the military authorities that a force of similar constitution and strength would have a staff numbering altogether 92 officers.

TREATY WITH ABYSSINIA.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucester, Forest of Dean): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether an arrangement between the Emperor Menelik and Her Majesty's Government was signed and sealed on the 14th May?

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Mr. G. CURZON, Lancashire, Southport): The answer is in the affirmative.

MR. T. W. LEGH (Lancashire, Newton): Can the right hon. Gentleman say whether it is the intention of the King to send missions to this country.

*MR. CURZON: I have not heard of any such intention.

IRISH MAIL SERVICE.

MR. J. L. CAREW (Dublin, College Green): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, why the second mail for Rathangan, county Kildare, is not sent out from Kildare at the same time as the mails for Fontstown, Dunmurry, and Lackagh, viz., at 8.10 a.m. instead of at 9 a.m.?

MR. HANBURY: The reason is that the improved service to Rathangan cannot be arranged without additional expense, which is not warranted, as the existing service is conducted at a loss to the Revenue; while in the other three cases it was found practicable to improve the service without incurring expense.

TREASON-FELONY PRISONERS.

MR. MICHAEL DAVITT (Mayo, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland (1) whether the prisoners Conneeley, Fitzharris, Mullett, and O'Hanlon, now confined in Maryborough Convict Prison, have completed (including the period during which they were detained awaiting trial) over 14 years' imprisonment; (2) whether they are now, and have been since convicted, classed as well-conducted prisoners by the officials in charge of them, and whether the remissions so far earned by their uniform good conduct represent each of them as having virtually undergone a legal sentence of over 17 years; and (3) whether, seeing that three other prisoners, named Dowling, Fox, and Diskin, tried and sentenced at the same time, and subjected to similar prison treatment, were released on the ground of impaired health, and died shortly after liberation, he will order a special report by the medical officers of Maryborough Prison on the health of the prisoners Connolley, Fitzharris, Mullett, and O'Hanlon?

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): The fact is, as stated in the first paragraph. All four convicts are now, and have been for some years, classed as well-conducted prisoners. The suggestion in the second part of the second paragraph is correct, if it means that each of the convicts has earned by good conduct and industry more than the number of marks which would qualify him for release on licence, had his sentence been one of 17 years; but the hon. Member is doubtless aware that the sentence on Conneeley was one of 20 years, and that Fitzharris, Mullett, and O'Hanlon were sentenced to penal servitude for life. The health of all four convicts is under constant medical supervision, and so recently as the 6th instant, the Resident Medical Officer of the prison reported that Conneeley would be in his usual health in a day or two; that Fitzharris enjoys fair health; that Mullett is convalescent after an attack of influenza; and that O'Hanlon, who suffers from dyspepsia, enjoys otherwise fair health.

NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY.

MAJOR RASCH (Essex, S.E.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, whether Army and Navy pensioners are promoted curators at the National Portrait Gallery without examination, but have to pay a fee of 5s. and be examined in the Tate Gallery; and could he explain why such different treatment should exist?

MR. HANBURY: In the National Gallery, including the Tate Gallery, the posts to which pensioners have been appointed are permanent and pensionable. They have therefore to pass a very simple examination and to pay the small fee mentioned. In the National Portrait Gallery their posts are temporary and non-pensionable and so do not require any examination.

POSTAL REFORMS.

GENERAL LAURIE (Pembroke and Haverfordwest): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether the proposed alteration in postal rates, which was announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer as probably coming into force on the Jubilee Celebration Day, is yet arranged for; and, if so, when any official intimation of the alteration will be made to the public?

MR. HANBURY: The alterations in the rates of the Inland Letter and Parcel Posts, which the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced would come into force on Jubilee Day, were duly made on that date and were officially announced by public notice.

GENERAL LAURIE asked when and how this notice was given. He had inquired at a great many post offices and could not find it. If it were posted up at all it must have been in the private offices of the different postmasters?

MR. HANBURY said that the notices were sent out to all postmasters some time before the Jubilee Celebration Day, and in addition public notices were sent out to be posted up in all post offices. He was assured that this had been done in London.

GLEBE TENANTS (IRELAND).

MR. G. MURNAGHAN (Tyrone, Mid): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland (1) whether he is aware that certain tenant farmers in Ireland, commonly known as glebe tenants, purchased in 1874 their holdings at 22½ and 25 years' purchase of the then rental, and that the rent of 1874 is an impossible one now owing to the great fall in price of farm produce; (2) is he also aware that a number of these tenants have been paying for 23 years interest at a high rate on three-fourths of the purchase money advanced by Government to purchase their holdings; and, (3) as these tenants can no longer pay high interest on the money due to the State, will he consider their case with a view to giving them a share in the benefits of recent land legislation?

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: The average rate at which glebe tenant purchasers purchased their holdings under the Irish Church Act of 1869 may be taken at 22½ years' purchase of the rental. The fact is not as stated in the second paragraph. The cases of these tenant purchasers were dealt with by the Land Acts of 1885 and 1887 with the result, generally, that their instalments have since been at a similar rate to those of purchasers under the Ashbourne Act—the instalments including interest being at the rate of 3⅛ per cent. Moreover, Section 26 of the Land Act of last year extended further advantages to Church purchasers as well as to other tenant purchasers. The question in the third paragraph seems, therefore, to have been put in ignorance of the facts.

LABOURERS' ACTS (IRELAND).

Mr. MURNAGHAN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland (1) whether he is aware that in recent years farmers in the north of Ireland experience no little difficulty in procuring labourers to assist in the work of the fields; (2) that the scarcity of farm labourers becomes more marked year by year, though wages are as high or higher than formerly; and that, owing to the want of cottages built under the Labourers' Acts, no encouragement exists for young men and women to remain, and they are forced to seek a home in other lands; and, (3) as the province of Ulster contains barely three per cent. of the cottages built under the Labourers' Acts in Ireland, will steps be taken to place agricultural labourers in Ulster on a level, as regards housing accommodation, with agricultural labourers in other parts of the country?

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: I believe it is a fact that the supply of labourers in Ulster has been decreasing in recent years, though I have no reason to believe that this represents a state of things peculiar to Ulster, and doubtless there are considerations other than those suggested in the Question which have influenced the emigration of labourers. As regards the second paragraph, in every case in which a complaint has been made to the Local Government Board, of the refusal of the local authority to act upon representations made with the view of putting the Acts into force, the Board have exercised the statutory powers vested in them; but they have no authority to take action in the matter unless these conditions are complied with.

CLOGHER VALLEY TRAMWAY.

Mr. MURNAGHAN: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he is aware that the employès of the Clogher Valley Tramway Company were from the 3rd to 8th of May engaged unloading coal at Tynan and Aughnacloy; and, if so, how was the safety of the line looked after if the men were absent; is he also aware that about half the permanent-way men have been engaged at work other than that connected with the line; and, can he state whether the Clogher Valley Tramway between Fivemiletown and Brookborough is properly supplied with ballast?

The PRESIDENT of the BOARD of TRADE (Mr. C. T. Ritchie, Croydon): I have communicated with the secretary of the Railway Company, and have received the following reply:—

> "Men from permanent-way staff who could be spared for time being were drafted from different gangs to unload locomotive coals for the Company's own use. Staff have not been employed on any but Company's business. Line is properly ballasted between Fivemiletown and Brookborough, and was inspected by Fermanagh County Surveyor one week ago."

FOREIGN OFFICE EXAMINATIONS.

Sir WILFRID LAWSON (Cumberland, Cockermouth): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether Political Economy has for the last few years been eliminated from the examination of candidates for the Foreign Office; and, if so, whether there is any objection to its being reinstated among the subjects for examination?

*MR. CURZON: There are already so many obligatory subjects in the Foreign Office examination—exclusive of those which are optional—that Political Economy was dropped in 1892, when the existing regulations were drawn up. It is not proposed to reinstate it.

WINCHESTER BARRACKS.

MR. W. H. MYERS (Winchester): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether the plans for the rebuilding of Winchester Barracks are ready, and how soon the work will be begun; and if he is aware that part of the ruins of the old barrack buildings are in a dangerous state and on the verge of falling?

MR. BRODRICK: The site-plan for the new barracks at Winchester has been approved, and the detail plans are in progress. Work will be commenced at as early a date as possible, but the precise time cannot yet be stated. Any portion of the ruins found to be in a dangerous state will be at once removed.

RED SEA LIGHTS.

SIR JAMES FERGUSSON (Manchester, N.E.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he will lay upon the Table of the House the correspondence between his Department and the Foreign Office relative to the erection of a light at the eastern end of the Gulf of Aden; and from what source he proposes to obtain the funds for the erection of such light, since the surplus of the sum surrendered by Egypt from the light dues, over that required for the lights required in the Red Sea, has been granted to the Quarantine Board?

MR. RITCHIE: No, Sir; I do not propose to lay the correspondence referred to on the Table. Nor am I at present in a position to say from what fund the cost of placing any light at the eastern end of the Gulf of Aden will be defrayed.

MUZZLING ORDERS.

MR. J. W. WILSON (Worcestershire, N.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture whether he is prepared to bring in a Bill giving effect to that part of the Departmental Committee's Report which advises the annual issue of a metal disc, to be worn by the dog when licensed, with a view to reducing the number of stray dogs, and thus avoiding, as in many foreign countries, the necessity for muzzling orders; and whether it may be possible for such legislation to be pressed forward with a view to taking effect as soon as the present muzzling orders can be relaxed?

*THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. WALTER LONG, Liverpool, West Derby): A Bill for the purpose of giving effect to those recommendations of the Departmental Committee which cannot be carried out without further legislation is now in course of preparation, and will, I hope, be introduced very shortly. Whether it will be possible for it to be passed into law this Session must depend upon circumstances over which I have no control, but I do not anticipate that any great difference of opinion will arise with regard to its proposals.

WORKMEN (COMPENSATION FOR ACCIDENTS) BILL.

MR. E. BAINBRIDGE (Lincoln, Gainsborough): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his statement (made to the deputation from the Mining Association of Great Britain to the Marquess of Salisbury on Friday last) that the Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill, as drawn, relieves the employer to the extent of 30 per cent. of the cost of compensation, indicates that it is the intention of the Government that this proportion should represent the contribution of the workmen?

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.): This Question refers to what I said in a speech, and I have already intimated to the hon. Member that I thought it was hardly a matter which was worth the attention of the House of Commons. As, however, the Question has been put to me publicly, I have to say that the hon. Member appears to have entirely misunderstood the sense of my observations. What I did say was, that in the Compensation

Bill we had excluded the first two weeks as not to be paid for in any case, and I went on to say that the result of that was to exclude altogether 25 per cent., or one-quarter of the whole, of the accidents that took place. I further pointed out that besides these exceptions, amounting to 25 per cent. on the whole number of accidents, we took two weeks off the compensation that was given in the case of all other accidents; and as in the average of the majority of these accidents, which were known as accidents which caused temporary incapacity, the incapacity only lasted six weeks, the effect was to reduce the amount of compensation in such cases by about 30 per cent., and to that statement I adhere.

CRETE.

MR. J. C. FLYNN (Cork, N.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he can state whether any steps have yet been taken by the representatives of the Great Powers towards securing the promised withdrawal of the Turkish forces from Crete?

*MR. CURZON: The question of the reorganisation of Crete, including the question of the Turkish garrisons, is under the continued consideration of the Powers; but it has not been found possible to proceed with it at Constantinople *pari passu* with the negotiations for the conclusion of the peace between Turkey and Greece.

MR. FLYNN: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the Foreign Office is in possession of any recent information concerning the condition of affairs in Crete; whether Candian refugees representing the mercantile and other classes of that town have made representations to the effect that whilst in other towns in Crete occupied by European troops efficacious measures have been taken to repress disorder in the towns and put a stop to hostilities in the country, in Candia, which is occupied by British troops, the Bashi-Bazouks plunder the houses and shops of Christians and organize raiding expeditions into the neighbouring country; and whether effective steps to cope with this dangerous condition of things will be taken, either by increasing the strength of the garrison or otherwise?

*MR. CURZON: A telegram from Cretan refugees at Athens was received by Lord Salisbury on Tuesday night. Several of the statements contained in it are not in accordance with the facts as they have been reported to us, but the telegram has been referred to Colonel Chermside for his observations. The Turkish garrison at Candia has already been increased from Canea, but no request has reached us from Colonel Chermside for an increase of the British occupying force.

MR. J. DILLON (Mayo, E.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether any attempt was made by the Turkish troops in Candia to prevent the raid on the 26th June, when upwards of a thousand Bashi-Bazouks left that town to attack Kani Kasteli; and whether Turkish troops have been sent to re-inforce the garrison of Candia with the approval of the European admirals?

*MR. CURZON: No information bearing on the first part of this question has been received since the telegrams from Colonel Chermside of the 26th and 28th of June, which I have previously communicated to the House. In the latter of those telegrams it is stated that cavalry orderlies were sent to the outposts, but that nevertheless a considerable raid occurred. The two companies of Turkish troops who have gone to re-inforce the garrison at Candia have no doubt been sent with the approval of the admirals.

MR. DILLON: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs with what object has the system of rout marching of European troops in the interior of Crete been ordered; and whether it will be carried out in spite of the Cretan insurgents?

*MR. CURZON: It is believed that the march of European detachments through the interior of Crete was designed as a pacific measure to reassure the inhabitants and to acquaint them with the intentions of the Powers as regards the future of the island. Six of the native chiefs, however, requested that the march might be for the present postponed, as they were not quite sure of their control over their own people until the election of chiefs had been finally settled.

MR. DILLON: Has it, then, been agreed to postpone the march?

***MR. CURZON**: Yes; the march has not taken place.

MR. DILLON: I beg to ask the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs when the Cretan Papers, dealing with the events of last February, will be distributed?

***MR. CURZON**: I hope the Papers in question will be distributed to-morrow.

MR. DILLON: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, whether it is a fact that in the town of Candia, the plundering of the houses of Christians continues daily under the eyes of the European troops?

***MR. CURZON**: No report as to plundering in Candia has reached us from Colonel Chermside since his telegram of 16th June, the substance of which I communicated to the House on the 2nd instant. We do not believe that the statement in the Question can be well founded, but a telegram from Athens containing allegations to the same effect has, as I have already stated in reply to a previous Question, been sent to Colonel Chermside, for his observations.

NATIONAL EDUCATION BOARD (IRELAND).

MR. VESEY KNOX (Londonderry): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that much discontent has been caused among teachers by the alteration of Rule 154 of the National Education Board, as to promotion from one division to another of the second class without notice; and whether he will recommend that for the future notice shall be given before an examination is required for a promotion, hitherto dependent on the efficiency of the school, and that the new rule shall not come into force without a reasonably delay?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: The subject-matter of this question will come before the Commissioners at their meeting to be held on the 20th instant, and I am not prepared to make any statement in reference to it until I have been furnished with the observations of the Commissioners.

MR. FLYNN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland (1) in view of the evidence given before the Committee on Manual Instruction, and also of the strong representations made by the Commissioners of National Education showing the disastrous effects of maintaining the present high standard of average attendance at school in order to qualify for an assistant teacher, whether he will make a representation to the Treasury with a view to secure sufficient funds to enable the Commissioners to meet the expenditure which would result from a reduction of the average necessary from 70 to 60; and (2) whether he can state the average attendance necessary to qualify for a second teacher in English schools?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I can only repeat what I have already stated in answer to former Questions put to me by the hon. Member, that I shall be prepared again to bring this matter before the Treasury in connection with the Estimates for the year 1898–99, should the Commissioners so desire. I have no information as to the second paragraph.

SCHOOL FEE GRANT (IRELAND.)

MR. KNOX: I beg to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what was the estimated average attendance on which 10s. a head was hypothetically allowed in calculating the arrears of school fee grant due to Ireland in respect of the financial years ending 31st March 1891, 1892, 1893, 1894, 1895, and 1896?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR (for the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER): With the permission of the House I will reply to this Question. The school grant, under the terms of the Education Act, 1892, only commenced after the financial year ended March 31, 1892. Accordingly, the financial year 1892–93 was the first for which the sum of 10s. a head was allowed on the basis of the annual average daily attendance of pupils over three and under 15 years of age. The year 1891-92 was that in which a grant in aid, amounting to £90,000, was voted by Parliament for the Teachers' Pension Fund. The average attendance on which the 10s. a head was calculated in respect of the years 1892 to 1896 was as follows:—For the year 1892, 470,794; 1893, 503,002; 1894, 502,200; 1895, 495,897; 1896, 510,000.

DONEGAL RAILWAY.

MR. KNOX: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can explain for what reason the Board of Works in Ireland insisted that the extensions of the Donegal Railway authorised by Parliament in 1896 should be constructed as a separate undertaking; whether there is any precedent for such a requirement by the Board of Works, and under what Act the Board obtained power to so require; and whether there is any precedent for extensions in two directions, divided by thirty-two miles of the existing line, being constructed and worked as a single separate undertaking.

MR. HANBURY: The Donegal Company of themselves by their Bill provided that the extensions referred to should be a separate undertaking. In the recital of the original Bill the words used are:—

> "it is expedient that the Company should be authorised to raise additional capital for the purposes of this Act, and should be authorised to construct the said railways as a separate undertaking with separate capital."

I do not know whether there is any exact precedent covering extensions in two directions. Extensions in one direction can be easily found; for instance, the City of Dublin Junction Railway is a separate undertaking from the Dublin Wicklow and Wexford Railway.

ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

MR. W. T. HOWELL (Denbigh Boroughs): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the serious complaints recently made in the Press by the Incorporated Medical Practitioners' Association, and by the matrons of many important hospitals, as to the mismanagement of the Royal British Nurses' Association (an Association holding a Royal Charter) by the officials of that body, and to the allegations of irregular and improper administration of the affairs of the Association; and whether, with a view to instituting a public inquiry into the matter, he will consider documentary evidence in support of such complaints and allegations if laid before him?

MR. JESSE COLLINGS: Yes, Sir; the Secretary of State has had a representation made to him with regard to this matter; but it does not appear to be one in which he has any jurisdiction, and, as at present advised, he cannot undertake to consider the complaints with a view to instituting an inquiry.

WATERFORD DUNGARVAN AND LISMORE RAILWAY.

MR. S. MORRIS (Kilkenny, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury (1) whether the Waterford Dungarvan and Lismore Railway has been sold to the Rosslare Railway Company, or the Board of Works mortgage transferred to them; and (2) whether any Bill will be introduced relating to the matter?

MR. HANBURY: The answer to the first paragraph is No. In answer to the second paragraph, I cannot obviously give such a large pledge as the Question implies. No Bill will be introduced during this Session at any rate.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford) said that, arising out of the right hon. Gentleman's answer, he wished to ask whether the negotiations indicated by the Question were in progress; had the right hon. Gentleman's attention been called to the resolution passed by the Corporation of Waterford, the Harbour Board, and by all the Public Boards of the City, strongly condemning any sale to the Rosslare Company; and whether he was also aware that public opinion was strongly against the sale?

MR. HANBURY: Of course I have received these resolutions, and I am aware that some injury will be done to the city of Waterford by the sale of this line, but, of course, we have to consider the interests of the whole district.

MR. P. J. POWER (Waterford, E.): If this line be sold, will it be necessary to introduce a Bill upon the subject?

MR. HANBURY: That I cannot say, but this company are not the only persons who are concerned.

MR. T. LOUGH (Islington, W.): Will the right hon. Gentleman give the House an opportunity of pronouncing upon this sale before it is completed?

MR. HANBURY: No, Sir; I do not think so. The only opportunity will arise upon the Board of Works Vote, which must be taken to-morrow. I have already explained that, in considering this question, the interests of the locality concerned have been taken into consideration, and I will do my very utmost, by consulting the representatives and others, to see that the Interests of the locality are thoroughly protected.

LIGHT RAILWAYS (IRELAND).

Mr. W. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state when the expenditure will commence of the sum allocated last Session for the construction of light railways in Ireland; and, whether he is aware that in the congested districts employment is required; and that many inquiries have been made as to when and where the proposed railways will be commenced?

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: Expenditure under the Act of last year has already commenced in connection with some of the smaller schemes. It is expected that tenders will be invited for the construction of the Buncrana-Cardonagh Railway in the course of a few days. I shall be prepared to give further information to-morrow in the discussion on the Estimates.

ARMY FORAGE SUPPLIES (IRELAND).

Mr. FIELD: I beg to ask the Financial Secretary to the War Office whether he can state what decision has been arrived at by the inquiry respecting the supply of foreign meat, oats, and hay to the troops in Ireland; and, whether he will lay upon the Table Copies of said Report, or furnish them to Members of the House?

The FINANCIAL SECRETARY to the WAR OFFICE (Mr. Powell-Williams, Birmingham, S.): A statement upon this subject will be made when the War Office Estimate is under discussion.

Mr. FIELD asked at about what date the reply might be expected. They had already waited a long time for it.

Mr. POWELL-WILLIAMS said that he understood that the War Office Estimate was not likely to be taken, at any rate, within a fortnight; but the Question was one for the right hon. Gentleman the First Lord of the Treasury to decide.

KHAMA'S TERRITORY.

Mr. ALFRED HUTTON (York, W.R., Morley): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his attention has been called to any complaint made by the Chief Khama respecting the establishment of huts for the sale of liquor in connection with the railway through his territory, and in contravention of the agreement made between him and the Chartered Company?

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN: The only complaint of this sort of which I am aware is one made by Khama in February last of the sale of liquor at Magalapse siding by persons who held no liquor licence whatever. The Assistant Commissioner reported that a detachment of police had already been sent to the place, and that there should be no room for further complaint, though he feared that such illicit practices had been going on previously.

DISPENSERS (POOR LAW UNIONS).

Mr. A. LYTTELTON (Warwick and Leamington): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board if he could state why the standard of qualification for appointment as dispenser to a Poor Law Union has been reduced, so that persons other than those possessing a statutory qualification in pharmacy are now eligible for such appointments; and whether, having regard to the special technical training required in such dispensers, the Local Government Board will take steps to obtain for the sick poor in the various unions under their jurisdiction the security afforded by dispensers possessing a statutory qualification to dispense medicines?

The PRESIDENT of the LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. Henry Chaplin, Lincolnshire, Sleaford): The Local Government Board in June, 1895, issued an order by which compounders of medicines duly qualified in accordance with the regulations for the Army Medical Staff Corps were recognised as qualified for appointment as dispensers by Boards of Guardians. The Board had previously issued similar orders as regards particular cases. The order referred to was not issued without careful consideration. The compounding in the Army, I am advised, is most satisfactory, and I see no sufficient reason for altering the order with regard to this qualification.

BELMULLET UNION.

MR. D. CRILLY (Mayo, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland (1) whether he is aware that the cost of outdoor relief in the Belmullet Union during the months of May and June averaged £23 10s. per week, while the average for the corresponding months of last year was only £2 5s.; that the cost of outdoor relief for the week ending the 19th June was £37 10s., while the cost in the corresponding week of 1896 was only £3 2s. 6d.; and (2) whether, seeing that that this large increase is due to the existence of famine and fever in the Union, it is the intention of the Government to provide any special relief to ease the burden of the local rates?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: The statistics of the outdoor relief expenditure given in the first paragraph of the Question are practically correct. With regard to the second paragraph, as the relief expenditure will be, to a great extent, a charge on the Union at large, the poorer Electoral Divisions, where distress prevails, will only have to pay a small portion of the cost; but whether the total expenditure will involve a rate over the entire Union next year of uncollectable dimensions is a matter which can best be decided when the Estimate for the new rate is submitted at the conclusion of the financial year ending 29th September next.

MR. CRILLY asked whether the right hon. Gentleman was aware that the conclusion of the Local Board of Guardians was that at the end of the financial year in September the rate would be 12s 8d. in the £1?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: That may possibly be the conclusion of the Board of Guardians, but when the time comes the Government will, of course, consider the matter.

MR. CRILLY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he can issue instructions to the Local Government Board officials that, in view of the outbreak of typhus fever on the Island of Iniskea, in the Belmullet Union, a temporary structure to serve the purposes of a hospital should be erected on the island, so that the fever-stricken persons might be isolated from the other portion of the population, and might, without danger to those who have escaped the epidemic, be nursed back to convalescence?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: The Board of Guardians have already applied to the Commissioners of National Education for the use of the school-house on the island for the purpose indicated in the Question, and this application, which was supported by the Local Government Board, has, I understand, been complied with. The Board have further advised the Guardians of their powers, under Section 155 of the Public Health Act, to provide temporary places for the treatment and reception of the sick or convalescent, and the Congested Districts Board have placed at the disposal of the Guardians a large shed on the island for this purpose.

MR. CRILLY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland what is his latest information as to the condition of Miss Kenny and Miss M'Alister, the two trained nurses belonging to the City of Dublin Hospital, who are now suffering from fever in the Belmullet Hospital, as a consequence of attending the fever stricken patients on the Island of Iniskea?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: Yesterday I was informed that one of the nurses was doing well, but that the condition of the other was not satisfactory.

MR. CRILLY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland (1) what number of special nurses have been, and are, engaged in attending the fever patients on Iniskea Island; and (2) what has been the cost per week to the Belmullet Union of dealing with the epidemic?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: The staff of paid nurses at present on the island consists of two trained and two untrained nurses. The nursing is under the direction of a temporary medical officer specially engaged for attending to the island during the continuance of the fever. The guardians have power to appoint as many additional nurses as the medical staff recommends, and the inspectors of the Local Government Board are advising them in the matter

It is impossible to give the information indicated in the second paragraph without making local inquiry which may occupy some days.

MR. CRILLY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state if the epidemic of typhus fever which has now for some time been raging on the island of Iniskea, in the Belmullet Union, has extended to the mainland; and, if so, can he give the number of cases reported by the authorities as having broken out on the mainland?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: Two cases of fever were reported to the Local Government Board last week as having occurred on the mainland and both were removed to hospital. The Board have not since heard of the occurrence of other cases.

IRISH LAND COMMISSION.

MR. FLYNN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, in reference to the recent appointment of eight additional Assistant Land Commissioners, whether he will consent to a Return giving the names, residences, former occupations, previous experience of land cultivation, and so forth, in continuation of the Return furnished on the Motion of the Member for South Down?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: No objection will be offered to the further Return indicated in the Question if the hon. Member will move for it in the usual way.

NEW HEBRIDES.

MR. J. F. HOGAN (Tipperary, Mid): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the future of the New Hebrides has formed or will form a subject of consultation with the Australasian Premiers during their stay in London; and, whether he is aware that the Australian Colonies are strongly and unanimously of opinion that this important and valuable group of islands, so close to their shores, should be saved from the threatened danger of a permanent foreign occupation?

MR. CHAMBERLAIN: It has been resolved that the interchange of views with the Australasian Premiers with regard to the future of the New Hebrides should be confidential, and I am not able to make any statement at present as to the subjects discussed. The position of the New Hebrides has had the careful attention of Her Majesty's Government for some time past.

ELECTION OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH (YORKSHIRE).

MR. HELDER (Whitehaven): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board if his attention has been directed to the recent elections of Medical Officers of Health, especially for the urban district of Keswick and the borough of Brighouse (Yorks); and whether he is aware that for both of these posts, although there were candidates possessing special diplomas in sanitary science and special training in public health work, the candidates appointed in both districts were non-possessors of any special diploma in public health, and had not received any special training in this particular department.

MR. CHAPLIN: The Local Government Board have received reports of the recent appointments of Medical Officer of Health by the Urban District Council of Keswick, and the Town Council of the borough of Brighouse. I have no information as to the qualifications of the other candidates for these appointments, but in both cases the candidates appointed possessed the qualifications prescribed by statute. The Act only requires that a Medical Officer of Health should be the holder of a diploma in sanitary science, public health, or state medicine, when the district for which he is appointed has, according to the last published census, a population of 50,000 or more. The population of Keswick in 1891 was 3,905 and of Brighouse, 20,666.

MOROCCO PORTS (CONSULAR CHARGES).

SIR ARTHUR FORWOOD (Lancashire, Ormskirk): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether Her Britannic Majesty's Consuls at the port of Morocco are demanding from British ships visiting these ports a fee of 10s. for attesting the signature of the agents on the manifests of the British vessels: under what authority such demand is made: whether he is aware that the Consuls of other nations make no such charge for the same duty as regards vessels under their respective flags; and, if he will give instructions that the same course be adopted by our Consuls?

*Mr. CURZON: The fee of 10s. on the manifests of British vessels is only charged on exports from the ports of Morocco, and is levied under the Consular Fees Order in Council of 1892. The consent of the Treasury was obtained to the waiver of a similar fee on the manifests of imports in March of last year, but the same commission was not extended to exports. I will, however, consult Sir Arthur Nicolson as to the working of the present system.

AGRICULTURAL RATING ACT, 1896.

Mr. COMPTON RICKETT (Scarborough): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board, with respect to the Agricultural Act, 1896, in the case of a Union, such as Scarborough, comprising several parishes, some of which have agricultural land and some have not, should the annual amount received by the spending authority (the Board of Guardians), under the Agricultural Rating Act, 1896, be credited to the common fund of the Union, or should it be credited to the parishes in the Union separately, in proportion to the agricultural land in those parishes respectively that have agricultural land; and do the words "their share," in Section 3 of the above Act, refer to the share in the annual grant paid out of the Local Taxation Account to the spending authority, the guardians, or to the share of the several parishes in a Union in that sum after it has been received by the spending authority?

Mr. CHAPLIN: In reply to the Question, it may be said that in one sense the annual grant referred to is credited to both. What happens under Section 3 of the Agricultural Rates Act is this: the amount of the grant is paid to the spending authority—*i.e.* the Guardians of the Union. This amount is then to be deducted from the total amount that the spending authority

would require to raise by rates, if this grant were not payable. The sum which remains after the deduction is to be raised by contributions from the different parishes, taking into account the amount of agricultural land in each of them, This is accomplished by raising the sum not on the rateable, but on the assessable, value of the parishes, the assessable value meaning the rateable value reduced by an amount equal to one-half of the rateable value of the agricultural land in each parish. The benefit to a parish with agricultural land will be derived not from the distribution of the grant directly to each parish—in proportion to its agricultural land (the grant being paid into the common fund)—but from the fact that they will be called upon for a lesser contribution to the rates in proportion to the amount of their agricultural land. The words "their share" refer to the spending authority.

PEACE NEGOTIATIONS AT CONSTANTINOPLE.

Sir E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT (Sheffield, Ecclesall): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the Turkish Government have offered to accept the line of the River Peneius as the new fronties, which would restore to Turkey about one-fifth of the territory ceded by Turkey to Greece in 1886?

*Mr. CURZON: I think the House will agree that, while negotiations are proceeding at Constantinople, it would be undesirable to make any public statement about specific details, which might only tend to create a false impression.

METROPOLITAN ASYLUMS BOARD (CHILDREN'S COMMITTEE).

Mr. E. H. PICKERSGILL (Bethnal Geeen, S.W.): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether, in compliance with the request contained in a memorial addressed to him by Lord Peel on behalf of the State Children's Aid Association, he will take steps to secure that the Children's Committee of the Metropolitan Asylums Board shall be strengthened by the nomination thereon of men and women experienced in dealing with children and interested in educational matters?

Mr. CHAPLIN: There are at present no vacancies in the number of nominated Managers, but when it again becomes necessary for the Local Government Board to nominate members, in March of next year, or if before that time the number of elected Managers should be increased, I shall certainly, in making such nominations, have regard to the new duties with regard to children which now devolve on the Managers.

POST OFFICE DUTY.

Mr. FIELD: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he is aware that the arrangement of giving to postmen and officials nine clear hours off duty is frequently disregarded; and whether this complaint will be remedied?

Mr. HANBURY: There are some cases in which it has not yet been found practicable to afford a clear interval of nine hours off duty to postmen and sorters. But these cases are being considered with a view to arrangements being made to carry into effect, so far as the circumstances will admit, the recommendations of the Committee on Post Office Establishments.

QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE MEDAL.

Mr. F. J. HORNIMAN (Penryn and Falmouth): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he can see his way to recommend to Her Majesty that the medal in commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee, which it is proposed to confer upon chairmen of county councils, mayors, and provosts, should be also conferred upon chairmen of boards of guardians of the poor, and the chairmen of urban and rural district councils?

The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.): There is no proposal to confer this medal on the chairmen of county councils, boards of guardians, or rural district councils. The medal will be conferred upon the Lord Mayors, the Lord Provosts, and the mayors and provosts.

ENGINEERING TRADE DISPUTE.

Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he is prepared to take any step to facilitate a settlement of the dispute in the Engineering Trade, so as to avert the great misfortune of a widespread cessation of work in a great industry?

Mr. RITCHIE: If the intervention of the Board of Trade is asked for I shall be happy to consider the application; but I do not think any action of the Department in this direction would at present be serviceable.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

Sir WILLIAM HARCOURT (Monmouthshire, W.): I wish to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he will appoint a day next week for taking the Foreign Office Vote. [*Opposition cheers.*]

The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY: I understand from communications which the right hon. Gentleman has sent to me that there is a desire in many parts of the House that an opportunity should be given in Supply to discuss the Foreign Office Vote. Of course it is the desire of the Government, as far as they can, to meet the wishes of the right hon. Gentleman opposite. By an arrangement Friday werk is allocated to the Post Office Vote, which is of peculiar importance this year, in consequence of the Report of the Commission on Post Office matters. It would be inconvenient to alter that arrangement, but I would suggest that we might take some day early in the week after next for the Foreign Office Vote if that would suit the views of the right hon. Gentleman. I shall probably put down the Colonial Office Vote for the same date. It might be Monday week, but I cannot pledge myself absolutely until I see what progress is made with the Workmen's Compensation Bill. ["Hear, hear!"]

Sir W. HARCOURT signified his assent to the arrangement suggested.

Mr. ROBERTSON asked the Civil Lord of the Admiralty whether as on former occasions he would place in the tea room the plans in connection with new proposals of the Naval Works Bill.

The CIVIL LORD of the ADMIRALTY (Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Worcestershire, E.) said he should be very happy to do so.

MILITARY MANŒUVRES BILL.

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford), in asking leave to introduce a Bill to facilitate military manœuvres, said the Bill had been brought forward at this period of the Session in consequence of the very strong encouragement which the Government received from various quarters of the House. There had been, as was well known, complete unanimity among military authorities inside and outside the House with regard to this question, and there had been indications from almost every quarter that there was a desire that Parliament should give our troops the same opportunities for manœuvres as were given to Foreign armies. Last year a Bill was introduced which was based almost word for word on Measures which had passed the House on previous occasions and which had worked without friction. They had believed that such a course would have given satisfaction, but they found that that view was erroneous and that when the Measure was to be made permanent there was a desire that its provisions should contain, not the maximum that might be necessary, but the minimum that would be necessary in order to carry out the manœuvres. The short Measure they were now introducing would give to the military authorities that minimum, and he hoped it would meet nearly all the criticisms which were passed on the Measure of last Session. The scope of the Bill was that an Order in Council should be made authorising the holding of manœuvres, that local commissions would then be appointed by local bodies, to which the Secretary of State would be allowed to add local gentlemen, owners, or occupiers of land, who would, however, be in a minority on the commission. The Measure would extend to Scotland and to Ireland in deference to the wishes expressed last year. All lands would be placed on the same footing with the exception of appurtenances of dwelling-houses and enclosed woods. Common lands and private lands would be treated alike in that respect. In deference to the fear expressed lest the same land should be too often taken they had put a proviso into the Bill that the same limits should not be specified for the manœuvres more than once in five years. In a similar spirit they had dealt with compensation on the lines urged upon them last year, and compensation would be given by the Government for any damage to person or property, or for interference with rights caused by the manœuvres, or any operations incidental thereto. They believed those words would cover the whole of the claims made upon them last year. Then, also in deference to the strongly expressed desire on the other side of the House that manœuvres should not take place without the actual authority of the House being invoked, they now proposed that a Resolution should be passed in Parliament in each year authorising the holding of the manœuvres if they were to be held. Penalties had been reduced to the lowest possible amount. There would be a penalty of 40s. for wilful obstruction to the manœuvres or for entering without authority into a camp, and a penalty of £5 for wilful damage to telegraph wires, flags, or distinguishing marks, and those penalties would be enforced by the ordinary law and not by any extraordinary tribunal. It might possibly be urged that that House had already given them this year a large tract of country on which to manœuvre, but he had explained at the time that, although that tract was absolutely necessary in order to enable cavalry to be properly trained, no tract which the Government could supply would enable our Generals and transport officers to get the experience which was necessary. They asked the House to pass the Bill this Session, because unless that was done they would be placed in the same position as they were in last year, when the money provided for the manœuvres had to be returned to the Exchequer. The Bill was regarded by the military authorities as being absolutely necessary in order to prevent our troops from being at a disadvantage as compared with those of foreign countries. He begged to move that leave be given to bring in the Bill. (*Cheers.*)

SIR HENRY CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs) said there could be no doubt whatever as to the very great importance of the object which the Government had in view in introducing this Measure—he would even use so strong a word as supreme importance—in the interests of the efficiency of the Army. Perhaps the higher officers in an even greater degree than the other branches of the service recognised the extreme importance of some better means than we had now of exercising the troops. He trusted from what the right hon. Gentleman had said that he had been able to meet in many respects the objections that were brought against the previous Measure, and, if so, he thought he would have very little difficulty in passing the Bill through the House that Session. Speaking for himself, he should be glad to do all he could to assist in passing it into law, and trusted it would meet with the general approbation of the House. ["Hear, hear!"]

Question put, "That leave be given to to bring in a Bill to facilitate Military Manœuvres."

The House divided:—Ayes, 215; Noes, 39.—(Division List, No. 280.)

Bill ordered to be brought in by Mr. Brodrick, Mr. Powell-Williams, and the First Lord of the Treasury; presented accordingly, and Read the First time; to be Read a Second time upon Monday next, and to be printed.—[Bill 306.]

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

WORKMEN (COMPENSATION FOR ACCIDENTS) BILL.

Order read, for resuming Adjourned Debate on Amendment proposed [6th July] on Consideration of the Bill, as amended.

Clause 1,—

LIABILITY OF CERTAIN EMPLOYERS TO WORKMEN FOR INJURIES.

(1.) If in any employment to which this Act applies personal injury by accident arising out of and in the course of the employment is caused to a workman, his employer shall, subject as hereinafter mentioned, be liable to pay compensation in accordance with the first schedule to this Act, such compensation shall be payable whether the injury occasioned arises from the act of the employer or of some person in his employ, or from the act of a stranger thereto. Provided that where such injury shall be occasioned by the act of a stranger under circumstances creating a legal liability to pay damages in respect thereof, the workman may at his option proceed either at law against such person to recover damages or against his employer for compensation under this, and if he be compensated under this Act the employer shall be entitled to enforce in the name of the workman all rights of action possessed by him against the person occasioning such injury as aforesaid.

(2.) Provided that:—

(*a*) The employer shall not be liable under this Act in respect of any injury which does not disable the workman for a period of at least two weeks from earning full wages at the work at which he was employed;

(*b*) When it is decided, as hereafter provided, that the injury was caused by the personal negligence or wilful act of the employer or of some person for whose act or default the employer is responsible, nothing in this Act shall affect any civil liability of the employer, but in that case the amount of damages due from such employer may, at the request of the persons claiming compensation, be settled by arbitration in accordance with the second schedule to this Act, or may at the option of such persons be recovered from such employer by the same proceedings as were open to such persons before the commencement of this Act; but the employer shall not be liable to pay compensation both independently of and also under this Act, and shall not be liable to pay compensation independently of this Act, except in cases of such personal negligence or wilful act;

(*c*) If it be proved that the accident is solely attributable to the serious and wilful misconduct of a workman, any compensation claimed in respect of injury to that workman shall be disallowed.

(3.) If any question arises as to whether the injury was caused by the personal negligence or wilful act of the employer, or of any person for whose act or default the employer is responsible, or whether the injury was caused by accident arising out of and in the course of the employment of the workman injured, or whether the accident was solely attributable to the serious and wilful misconduct of the workman in respect of whose injuries compensation is claimed, or as to the amount or duration of compensation under this Act, or otherwise as to the liability for compensation under this Act, the question, if not settled by agreement, and any question as to whether the employment is one to which this Act applies, shall, subject to the provisions of the first schedule to this Act, be settled by arbitration, in accordance with the second schedule to this Act. Proceedings for the recovery under this Act of compensation for an injury shall not be maintainable unless notice of the accident has been given as soon as practicable after the happening thereof, and the claim for compensation with respect to such accident has been made within six months from the occurrence of the accident causing the injury, or, in case of death, within twelve months from the time of death. Provided always that the want of such notice shall not be a bar to the maintenance of such proceedings if it is found in the proceedings for settling the claim that the employer is not prejudiced in his defence by the absence of such notice, or that such absence was occasioned by mistake or other reasonable cause. Notices shall be served in the manner provided for by the Employers' Liability Act 1880, Section seven.

(4.) If the Registrar of Friendly Societies, after ascertaining the views of the employers and workmen, certifies that any scheme of compensation or insurance for the workmen in any employment is on the whole not less favourable to the workmen and their dependants than the provisions of this Act, the employer may, until the certificate is revoked, contract with any of those workmen that the provisions of the scheme shall be substituted for the provisions of this Act, and thereupon the employer shall be liable only in accordance with the scheme, but, save as aforesaid, this Act shall apply, notwithstanding any contract to the contrary made after the commencement of this Act. No scheme shall be so certified which contains an obligation upon the workmen to join the scheme as a condition of their hiring.

If the funds under any such scheme are not sufficient to meet the compensation payable thereout the employer shall be liable to make good the amount of compensation which would be payable under this Act.

(5.) The Registrar of Friendly Societies shall in every year make a report of his proceedings under this Act, and that report shall be laid before Parliament.

(6.) If any workmen or their representatives shall submit to the said Registrar *primâ facie* evidence that the provisions of any scheme are no longer so favourable to the workman as the provisions of this Act, or that the provisions of such scheme are being violated, or that the same is not being fairly administered by the employers, or that satisfactory reasons exist for revoking the certificate, then he shall examine into the complaint, and, if satisfied that good cause exists for such complaint, shall, unless the cause of complaint is removed, revoke the certificate.

(7.) Whenever a scheme has been certified as aforesaid, it shall be the duty of the employer to answer all inquiries and to furnish all such accounts as may from time to time be required by the Registrar of Friendly Societies.

And which Amendment was to leave out the following words from Sub-section (4),—

"If the funds under any such scheme are not sufficient to meet the compensation payable thereout, the employer shall be liable to make good the amount of compensation which would be payable under this Act."—(*Mr. Wolff.*)

Question again proposed, "That the words from the word 'If,' to the word 'payable,' in line 19, both inclusive, stand part of the Bill."

SIR JAMES JOICEY (Durham, Chester-le-Street) resumed the Debate. He said that if the clause remained he was satisfied that there would be no inducement whatever to any employer to formulate a scheme with his workmen to be substituted for the Act. He had discussed the point with some gentlemen who were not only legal experts, but had a large experience in mining matters, and they confirmed him in his view that if this clause remained as it was it was hopeless to expect that any employer would join with his workmen in producing a scheme that could be carried out for their mutual benefit. When a scheme was approved of by the Registrar of Friendly Societies it was substituted for the Act; and the employer was brought as completely under the operation of the scheme as if the scheme were embodied in the Act itself. What did that lead them to? Supposing a scheme was adopted, that the workmen contributed as much as the employer, and that the whole sum went into the revenues of the Miners' Permanent Relief Fund. Out of this fund was to come not only compensation for accidents, but superannuation and payments during illness. Supposing there was a sufficient surplus to pay compensation for accidents, but not to pay superannuation or sick allowances, would the employer be expected to contribute something more in order to give the compensation which was provided by the scheme adopted by the employer and workmen, and sanctioned by the Registrar of Friendly Societies? Supposing, again, that under the scheme, payment from the fund were made for two or three years to a workman who had sustained an accident, would those payments be taken into consideration if the fund became insolvent, or would the employer be expected to contribute the whole of the compensation for which he was liable under the Act, and would get no credit for the payments made previously? It was quite possible that a scheme might be adopted under which the employer was to pay a certain sum in the case of death by accident. In the event of any one being killed it might be decided that instead of handing over the whole amount to the widow and children, which was usually a very unwise course to pursue, because a lump sum was spent quickly with little or no benefit to the widow or children, a certain number of payments should be made. Supposing a serious accident took place, causing the death of 150 or 200 people, and involving the payment of £40,000 in compensation; and supposing that after the money had been paid to the common fund it became insolvent some few months later—the employer would be required to pay this enormous sum of compensation a second time. With this clause in the Bill there would be no contracting out at all.

MR. J. M. MACLEAN (Cardiff) said when the second reading and Committee stages of the Bill were taken the House was on pleasure bent, and not able to give proper attention to a novel and complicated Measure of this kind. In view of the great principles involved, it was necessary to make as clear as possible the intention and probable result of this Bill. The other night the Colonial Secretary mentioned, with that ingenuous air which he knew so well how to assume, that he had a kindly feeling for the joint schemes and hoped that they would continue and increase. But what inducement would there be for the employer to enter into them? There was nothing to prevent the Colonial Secretary, some two or three years hence, when he had completed that assimilation of the Tory Party which was now going on—[*laughter and cheers*]—from telling the House that the workmen ought not to pay anything towards their maintenance during sickness, and proposing to throw the whole burden on the employer. The employer, with his experience of what had become these mutual funds to-day, was not likely to start new ones. The Colonial Secretary had said that in his view the contribution of the employers to these funds was insufficient and ought to be increased. But in what degree? If the right hon. Gentleman had proposed at the last General Election to increase that contribution in the degree now proposed, the right hon. Gentleman would not now be sitting on the Treasury Bench. ["Hear, hear!" *and laughter.*] The amount now subscribed annually to the South Wales Miners' Provident Fund was £65,000, of which the employers subscribed £12,500. The Colonial Secretary had declared that the burden placed on the coal trade by the Bill would not be 3d. a ton. Supposing it was only 1½d. per ton, that would represent a charge of £100,000 on the coalowners of South Wales instead of the present charge of £12,500. That Miners' Provident Fund had secured the industrial peace of South Wales for more than 20 years. The effect of the Bill would be to destroy that fund and bring about disputes between employers and employed.

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is now discussing the policy of the Bill, and not the particular Amendment before the House.

MR. MACLEAN said that the burden thrown upon the employers would make it necessary for them to put some of it on the men. The Government were evidently determined to impose this burden; and their supporters were willing to vote for it, as it would apply only to some trades. But hon. Members should remember that their turn would come. The turn of the shipowners was actually fixed for next year. [*Cheers.*]

MR. HENRY BROADHURST (Leicester) regarded the speech just delivered as one severe indictment against the whole principle of the Bill, and he repudiated its insinuations altogether. He should vote against the Amendment if only in consequence of that speech, which had for its object, not so much the insertion of any special amendment as the defeat of this important Bill, which large numbers of workpeople were waiting for outside the House of Commons.

MR. C. B. RENSHAW (Renfrew, W.) taunted the hon. Member for Leicester that his speech contained not one remark relevant to the Amendment. For his own part he regarded the insertion of the four lines which the hon. Member for Belfast moved to have expunged as the death-blow of contracting-out. If they remained in the Bill no capable and intelligent employer of labour would ever dare to contract out. The right hon. Gentleman the Colonial Secretary put the case of a fund to which the employer paid £1,000 and the workmen £1,000, and showed that the workmen would be benefited if such a fund existed. But no employer of labour was likely to enter into any scheme of contracting-out which would render him liable for the same amount as he would be liable for under the Bill. What he imagined would happen under the portion of the section already dealt with, would be this:—There might be a fund of £1,500 raised, £750 of which would be paid by the employer, and £750 of which would be contributed by the workmen. That would be £500 more than the case the right hon. Gentleman dealt with. A workman undoubtedly would be better off under a fund of £1,500 than under a fund of only £1,000 contributed by the employer. Now they were told that, suppose such a fund as this was in existence and a difficulty occurred and the whole fund was swept away, then the whole liability under this Bill to its full amount would be placed once more on the shoulder of the employer. That entirely militated against the possibility of contracting out. It seemed to him that these four lines constituted an overwhelming obstacle in the way of the possibility of contracting out, and he believed the right hon. Gentleman the Member for East Fife was right when he said that if they passed this clause as it was, it meant the death-blow of contracting-out.

Mr. HENRY SETON-KARR (St. Helens) considered the speech of the late Home Secretary on Tuesday night as one of the strongest arguments in support of the Amendment. He shared the right hon. Gentleman's view that the Amendment was in favour of contracting out and in favour, naturally, of the friendly societies, but for that reason he proposed, unlike the right hon. Gentleman, to vote for the Amendment. The Colonial Secretary based his whole argument against the Amendment on the assumption that the employers' contribution to any scheme must be the same as under the Bill. He could not find any words in the Bill to that effect. The employers' contribution was not the whole part of the scheme; it also embraced the workmen's contribution. Hon. Members must clear their minds of cant, and he could not agree with his right hon. Friend the Leader of the House when he said that employers did not altogether consider the amount of compensation. The amount of compensation under the Bill was uncertain, and particularly in dangerous trades. It could not accurately be ascertained or insured against, as in the colliery industry; and one inducement to an employer to enter a scheme was that he would know practically what his liability was. He would contribute a certain amount to the scheme, and that would be supplemented by the workmen's contribution. Therefore, he submitted, it could not be said on that ground again that the contribution of the employer must be as large as under the Bill. *A fortiori*, it followed, if these four lines remained in the clause, that one inducement would be taken away from the employer to enter into any scheme. The whole argument of the Colonial Secretary was founded on a misapprehension. The right hon. Gentleman said the amount an employer must pay to any scheme was the measure of the compensation he must pay under the Act. If so, he should like to have words put into the Act which would make that perfectly clear. Those four lines, unless taken out, would, he submitted, make it impossible for any employer to go into any scheme. He would like to say a word about contracting out, and the attitude of hon. Members opposite with regard to the principle. It was perfectly well known that hon. Members opposite were opposing the Bill because they hated contracting out. ["Hear, hear!"] They did not want to encourage the friendly societies. [*Cries of* "Oh, oh!"] That at least was his impression, and he should like to be convinced to the contrary. What was the real principle on which the objection rested? It was due to a feeling which existed many years ago, and which had now passed away—namely, that no workman should be bribed, coerced, or terrorised into making an unfair bargain, that he should be compelled to sell his life or his health for more money, that he should be compelled, so to speak, to coin his blood. That was the feeling which he believed had actuated many hon. Members in the past towards the principle of contracting out, but it was absolutely groundless now. No man under the existing law could be bribed, coerced or terrorised to go into any scheme which was not favourable to himself. Thus there was no argument on that ground against this Amendment. One of the great objections he had entertained to the details of the Bill—

and in this he shared the apprehensions of his hon. friends—was that he believed it would, particularly if these four lines were included, deal a death-blow to the mutual friendly societies. If an employer, entering into a scheme by which he gave the workman benefits outside the Bill, and by which he knew that his liability was defined, found by the insertion of these four lines that in some other circumstances he would be compelled to pay an uncertain amount of compensation by the Bill, what, he asked, would be the inducement for the employer to go into the scheme? The House was debating an important Amendment, and if it conld make employer and employed get rid of litigation, form a scheme in which no lawyers could interfere, and according to which employers and workmen were alone responsible, in which compensation was paid without any question being asked and litigation entered upon, then many dangers incident to the Bill would be avoided. But the introduction of these lines would prevent this, and would render the whole clause absurd and impossible of operation, while, at the same time, inflicting a serious injury on the industrial employers of the country. That was the reason why he supported the Amendment.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT (Monmouthshire, W.) said that the speech of the hon. Member was very important. He did not agree with the hon. Member, however, that hon. Gentlemen on the Opposition side of the House, in voting against this Amendment, would desire in any way to discourage friendly societies.—[*Cheers.*]—He was disposed to agree with what the hon. Gentleman said that the words in the clause would, to a large extent, if not altogether, prevent contracting-out. [*Cheers.*] That was a very clear issue, and he did not believe that there was any answer to the arguments on that point. But, after all, the process of conversion ought always to be easy—[*laughter*]—and if the adoption of the view that contracting-out should not be permitted was facilitated by this particular form of words introduced in the clause he did not think, if they secured the substance, the House ought to object to the methods. It was because the clause as at present drawn would discourage, if not destroy, the principle of contracting-out in connection with all schemes of the character referred to that the Opposition would maintain the clause as it was, and would oppose the Amendment.

MR. T. W. LEGH (Lancashire, Newton) said that, having listened to the debate, and particularly to the statement of the Colonial Secretary, he failed to see the necessity for the retention of this sub-section. If the employers were to be responsible for the whole amount under the scheme, as well as for compensation, it was plain that the contributions of the men were in the nature of an optional and superfluous luxury. The only explanation he could suggest for the appearance of the sub-section was, that it was either put in the clause to please hon. Members opposite or because the Government were not entirely of one mind on this Question. [*Ironical cheers.*] It was important that the supporters of the Government should be reassured on this point by the Attorney General. [*Ironical laughter and cheers.*] What the Debate had done was to point out the somewhat ridiculous position in which, as a party, the Unionists now found themselves. [*Ironical laughter.*] Two or three years ago contracting-out was one of the principal battle cries of their party; but now they were engaged in furthering the progress of a measure the obvious result of which would be to put an end to these arrangements altogether. [*Ironical Opposition cheers.*]

MR. JAMES LOWTHER (Kent, Thanet) said that the Leader of the Opposition thought it was desirable to make the process of conversion easy. Not being desirous to be converted—[*laughter*]—not having yet arrived at that happy stage, he heartily supported the Amendment. It was true, as the last speaker said, that it was only a few years ago when the whole of the Unionist party rallied on the great battle cry of contracting out. [*Ironical Opposition cheers.*] They were then told that they were vindicating individual liberty and maintaining not only the rights of capitalists, but the liberty of the workers. Although he had received one or two lessons in his life as to the somewhat doubtful character of party pledges—[*ironical laughter*]—he did really believe for once, at any rate, that they had a solid and substantial cry with which they might with confidence go to the country. [*Ironical cheers.*] The platforms rang with this cry; the principle of contracting out attained absolutely sacred limits—[*laughter*]—but where did the Unionist party now find itself? They found that words had been put into the Bill which made contracting out an absolute impossibility. ["Hear, hear!"] To tell him, or any one else, that any employer would be fool enough to enter into contracting out schemes in face of a provision like this was really trifling with the intelligence of men. [*Laughter.*] He hoped that some, at any rate, of the Unionist Members would adhere to their pledges of a few years ago.

MR. LEES KNOWLES (Salford, W.) said that if this proviso was left in the clause contracting out would be absolutely impossible. One of the great advantages of contracting out was to promote the friendly feeling which ought to exist between employer and employed, and if contracting out was not in the future to be permitted, litigation, arbitration and friction would destroy this friendly feeling which they were all anxious to promote and foster; any scheme under the Bill as it stood was not for the advantage of the employer so much as it was for the advantage of the employed, because in accordance with the words of the sub-section no scheme could possibly obtain sanction unless it was not less favourable to the men than the terms of the Bill, and there was no likelihood of any scheme being authorised unless it was more favourable to the men than the terms of the Bill. He thought that one of the great objects in connection with contracting-out was that the employer might in some form or other be able to gauge his liability, and to know the amount of compensation which he was likely to be liable for. If such a scheme was adopted it would be for the advantage of the employed that in such a scheme the liability of the employer might to some extent be limited. He looked with great fear on the results of the Bill so far the colliery employers were concerned. He knew from personal experience what the results of colliery accidents meant. He knew of one case in which 200 miners lost their lives. In ordinary circumstances, apart from the loss of business, there would be the compensation under this Bill, and such compensation would, he believed, mean the close of the mine, the loss of business in the district, and the loss of work for the men. He thought that in some form or another the amount of compensation should have been limited in the case of these big accidents.

*MR. SPEAKER said the hon. Member's observations did not bear on the Motion before the House.

MR. LEES KNOWLES was simply going to say that if such a scheme as that referred to in the sub-section were to be authorised, then the employers' liability might to some extent be limited in the case of accidents, such as the one to which he had alluded.

*MR. J. WILSON (Falkirk Burghs) had no hesitation whatever in saying that this clause was most unfair, unjust, and unreasonable. He should, therefore, vote for the Amendment of his hon. Friend the Member for Belfast. He had said before that he supported the principle of the Bill, and spoke in its favour on the First Reading; but be also warned the Government that if in the slightest degree the principle of contracting out was tampered with he would have no hesitation in voting boldly against the Bill. Now this clause most emphatically did away with contracting out. He had no hesitation, as an employer of great experience, in saying so. There would be no more friendly societies; no more friendly arrangements would be made. He said so in spite of the heroic speech of the Leader of the House. [*A laugh.*] It was a truly heroic speech; but it was like the Charge of the Six Hundred at Balaclava. That was magnificent, but it was not war, neither did his speech mean business. [*Laughter and Opposition cheers.*] If the Leader of the House meant to convince his colleagues, he would advise them to support the Amendment of the hon. Member for Belfast. He was not afraid to go to his constituents, because, while he had supported this Bill in principle, he would not support anything that was unfair and unjust.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Sir RICHARD WEBSTER, Isle of Wight) said he did not rise to continue the discussion on the merits of the Amendment. The Debate had been sufficiently prolonged. But he did rise to repeat the protest made by the Leader of the House the other night against speeches suggesting that there had been any inconsistency on the part of the Government—[*Opposition laughter*]—in supporting the clause as it now stood and their action on the Bill of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for East Fife. Those who had taken the pains to study the Debates with reference to the Dudley clause and who knew the conditions attached to that clause, those who remembered that hon. Members behind him actually moved Amendments making the employers responsible for the solvency and efficiency of schemes under the Dudley clause, would at any rate have a little better knowledge of what the true facts were than those who said that, because the Government had intended that as far as possible no scheme should deprive the workman of his compensation under the Bill, they were acting inconsistently with anything they had previously done. ["Hear, hear!"] He did not intend to go over the arguments again. He believed that when this matter came to be reviewed hereafter, upon sound considerations of humanity and good feeling and a desire for the benefit of the workman, the masters would be led very generally to make contracts and arrangements which would free them from the responsibility of submitting to arbitration and which would at the same time interest the workmen and effectually protect the masters against malingering. In fact, there were many circumstances under which the masters might feel that it was their interest to go into a scheme; and, notwithstanding all that had been said, he hoped the House would support the Government in their adherence to the clause. ["Hear, hear!"]

MR. JOHN BURNS (Battersea) said they were face to face with a critical situation. He sincerely trusted that the Opposition would not exploit the character of the situation forced upon the Government by the reactionary rump of their own Party—[*laughter*]—but would really discuss the question before the House in the light of their own action in this matter three or four years ago. The Opposition were correct when they said that they had been consistently opposed to contracting out, and although they might chaff the Government and twit them with having been inconsistent, that ought not to induce them to vote for the Amendment moved on the other side. He sincerely trusted that, whatever view the Opposition as a whole might have about the Amendment, and the reason which induced the Government to oppose it, they would not depart one jot from the consistent attitude they had taken up against contracting out. ["Hear, hear!"] Having said that, he now wished to say a word to some of the Gentlemen who supported Lord Dudley's Amendment. He would like to point out that those who did so were inconsistent in opposing the Government now, because Lord Dudley's words, or rather so much of his Amendment as could be applied to the Bill under discussion, were these,—

> "Provided also that in case the insurance fund is insufficient to provide the agreed compensation, and the employer is unwilling to make up the deficiency, the agreement for contracting out shall be considered void."

Now to that extent the Attorney General was thoroughly well within his right in claiming that in the special words of this Bill the Government were not inconsistent to the extent the right hon. Member for Thanet said they were. The right hon. Member for Thanet seemed to know a little more about the electoral mind of his friends a few years ago than what the circumstances justified. But what had he in his hand at that moment? The fact was that the Government view on contracting out had fluctuated in accordance with electoral exigiencies, because in 1892 every Conservative candidate—

Several HON. MEMBERS: "Question!"

MR. BURNS: Yes, that was the question. The Government were twitted with inconsistency. ["Hear, hear!"] They were twitted with running away from the position they had hitherto adopted on this point. Well, he had been looking at the election addresses of Conservative Members in 1892; and this was what was issued in a stereotyped form for the whole of the candidates in London of the Conservative Party,—

> "I would advocate an improvement and amendment of the Employers' Liability Act, making it impossible for the workman to contract himself outside its provisions, and making it easier for him to put forward his just claims to compensation."

An HON. MEMBER: "Who said that?"

MR. BURNS: The hon. Member for Clapham and the Conservative candidate who opposed me, and I have a number of others which it is not necessary to read. The fact was that in 1892 no contracting out was the platform on which many Conservative candidates went to the electorate. It was true they changed to some extent in 1895; but that was no reason why the men who wanted to stick to their pledges with regard to contracting out, and really carrying out Lord Dudley's Amendment in so far as the Bill could possibly do it—that was no reason why they should desert the Government at the eleventh hour and join in the attack which had been made in the hope that the Government Bill would be destroyed. He should support the Government—[*cheers*]—as against some of their own reactionary forwards, because he preferred Philip sober to Philip drunk. [*Laughter and cries of* "Divide!"]

Mr. ROBINSON SOUTTAR (Dumfriesshire) said he had given the matter some little consideration, and he objected to contracting out most entirely. But he thought that hon. Gentlemen on that side of the House were giving a somewhat unfair interpretation of the clause. He did not think the clause was at all so clearly a step in the direction of abandoning the policy of contracting out as some thought. It went on the assumption that employers would not do anything more for their employés than they were bound to do under the provisions of a compensation Bill. But he himself knew many employers who did a great deal more for their employés at present than they were at all bound to do by law; and why should they not follow the same course after the passing of this Measure? There were various channels which would be still open for arrangements between employers and employés, and he, for one, believed there would still be a legitimate future for contracting out, and that it would not be an injurious future for the workmen. He would like to point out that the clause did not put the employer in a worse position; it simply stipulated that the employer should not evade his responsibilities under the Bill.

Question put:—

The House divided:—Ayes, 278; Noes, 63.—(Division List—No. 281—appended.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir A. F.
Allan, William (Gateshead)
Allhusen, Augustus Henry Eden
Allison, Robert Andrew
Arnold, Alfred
Ascroft, Robert
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Atherley-Jones, L.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Austin, Sir John (Yorkshire)
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Baillie, James E. B. (Inverness)
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r.)
Balfour, Rt. Hn. Gerald W (Leeds
Balfour, Rt. Hn. J. Blair (Clackm)
Banes, Major George Edward
Barlow, John Emmott
Bathurst, Hn. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Beach, W. W. Bramston (Hants.)
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Begg, Ferdinand Faithfull
Bemrose, Henry Howe
Bethell, Commander
Bhownaggree, M. M.
Biddulph, Michael
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Augustine

Mr. Burns.

Brassey, Albert
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brookfield, A. Montagu
Brown, Alexander H.
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert (Durham)
Campbell, James A.
Cayzer, Charles William
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r)
Channing, Francis Allston
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Chelsea, Viscount
Clough, Walter Owen
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colville, John
Commins, Andrew
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Courtney, Rt. Hon. Leonard H.
Cox, Robert
Cozens-Hardy, Herbert Hardy
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Curran, Thomas B. (Donegal)

Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Dalziel, James Henry
Darling, Charles John
Davies, Horatio D. (Chatham)
Davitt, Michael
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred. Dixon
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Drucker, A.
Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Gen. Sir James Bevan
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Ellis, John Edward (Notts.)
Ellis, Thos. Edw. (Merionethsh.)
Evershed, Sydney
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
Fielden, Thomas
Finlay, Sir Robt. Bannatyne
Firbank, Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
Flannery, Fortescue
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Folkestone, Viscount
Forwood, Rt. Hn. Sir Arthur B.
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)

Fowler, Rt. Hn. Sir H. (Wol'tn)
Fowler, Matthew (Durham)
Fry, Lewis
Giles, Charles Tyrrell
Gilhooly, James
Gilliat, John Saunders
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gold, Charles
Goldsworthy, Major-General
Gordon, John Edward
Gorst, Rt. Hn. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Rt. Hn. G. J. (St. G'rg's)
Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
Gourley, Sir Edw. Temperley
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene, W. Raymond- (Cambs.)
Gretton, John
Greville, Captain
Grey, Sir Edward (Berwick)
Hammond, John (Carlow)
Hanbury, Rt. Hn. Robert Wm.
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm.
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harwood, George
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Chas. H.
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Holburn, J. G.
Holden, Angus
Holland, Hn. Lionel Raleigh
Horniman, Frederick John
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Hubbard, Hon. Evelyn
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Hutchinson, Capt. G. W. Grice-
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Isaacson, Frederick Wootton
Jacoby, James Alfred
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Joicey, Sir James
Jolliffe, Hon. H. George
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Kemp, George
Kenny, William
Kenrick, William
Kenyon, James
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. William
Kinloch, Sir John Geo. Smyth
Knox, Edmund Francis Vesey
Lafone, Alfred
Lambert, George
Langley, Batty
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumb'land)
Lecky, Rt. Hn. Wm. Edw. H.
Leighton, Stanley
Leng, Sir John
Lloyd-George, David
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R. (Essex)
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Liverpool)
Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
Lorne, Marquess of
Lough, Thomas
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas-Shadwell, William
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macaleese, Daniel
Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
McArthur, William
McCalmont, Maj-Gen. (Ant'm, N
McDonnell, Dr. M. A. (Queen's C
M'Hugh, E. (Armagh, S.)
M'Hugh, Patrick A. (Leitrim)
McKenna, Reginald
McLeod, John
Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe
Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
Mellor, Rt. Hn. J. W. (Yorks)
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Milton, Viscount
Molloy, Bernard Charles
Monk, Charles James
Montagu, Sir S. (Whitechapel)
More, Robert Jasper
Morgan, Hn. Frd. (Monmthsh.)
Morgan, Rt. Hn. Sir G. O. (Denbs.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morgan, W. Pritchard (Merthyr)
Morley, Rt. Hn. John (Montrose)
Morris, Samuel
Mundella, Rt. Hn. Anthony John
Murnaghan, George
Murray, Rt Hn. A. Graham (Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Northcote, Hon. Sir H. Stafford
Norton, Captain Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
Oldroyd, Mark
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Palmer, Sir Chas. M. (Durham)
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, Alfred E. (Cleveland)
Pease, Joseph A. (Northumb.)
Pender, James
Pickard, Benjamin
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Captain Duncan Vernon
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, Robert John
Priestley, Sir W. Overend (Edin.)
Pryce-Jones, Edward
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Reid, Sir Robert T.
Rentoul, James Alexander
Richards, Henry Charles
Rickett, J. Compton
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Robinson, Brooke
Round, James
Rutherford, John
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Samuel, J. (Stockton-on-Tees)
Scott, Charles Prestwich
Seely, Charles Hilton
Sharpe, Wm. Edward T.
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Smith, Abel H. (Christchurch)
Souttar, Robinson
Spicer, Albert
Stanhope, Hon. Philip J.
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stanley, Edw. Jas. (Somerset)
Stephens, Henry Charles
Stevenson, Francis S.
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Stock, James Henry
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Strauss, Arthur
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Alfred (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Usborne, Thomas
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Wallace, Robert (Edinburgh)
Wallace, Robert (Perth)
Walton, John Lawson
Warde, Lt.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
Warner, Thos. Courtenay T.
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Wayman, Thomas
Webster, Sir R. E. (Isle of Wight)
Wedderburn, Sir William
Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E.
Whiteley, H. (Ashton-under-L.)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, Joseph Powell- (Birm.)
Willox, John Archibald
Wilson, Fredk. W. (Norfolk)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, John (Govan)
Wilson, J. W. (Worc'sh., N.)
Woodall, William
Wyndham, George
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES, Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bainbridge, Emerson
Baird, John George Alexander
Banbury, Frederick George
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex)
Bowles, T. Gibson (King's Lynn
Coddington, Sir William
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cranborne, Viscount
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Dalbiac, Major Philip Hugh
Denny, Colonel
Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir Wm. Hart
Fergusson, Rt Hn. Sir J. (Manc'r)
Galloway, William Johnson
Gedge, Sydney

Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (City of Lond)
Gibbs, Hn. Vicary (St. Albans)
Gunter, Colonel
Hardy, Laurence
Havelock-Allan, General Sir H.
Heath, James
Heaton, John Henniker
Helder, Augustus
Hermon-Hodge, Robt. Trotter
Howard, Joseph
Howell, William Tudor
Hutton, John (Yorks, N.R.)
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Jenkin, Sir John Jones
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
Kimber, Henry
Knowles, Lees
Lowther, Rt. Hn. James (Kent)
Maclean, James Mackenzie
McKillop, James
Malcolm, Ian
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Montagu, Hon. J. Scott (Hants.)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Mount, William George
Myers, William Henry
Pierpoint, Robert
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Quilter, William Cuthbert
Renshaw, Charles Bine
Seton-Karr, Henry
Sidebottom, Wm. (Derbysh.)
Smith, James. Parker (Lanark)
Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (Strand)
Stanley, Henry M. (Lambeth)
Thorburn, Walter
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon-
Wharton, Rt. Hn. John Lloyd
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wodehouse, Edmond R. (Bath)
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-

TELLERS FOR THE NOES, Mr. Legh and Mr. Wolff.

Amendment made: In Sub-section (4) to leave out the word "thereout," and to insert the words "under the scheme."—(*Attorney General.*)

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL moved to leave out Sub-section (5). The intention was to put the clause with regard to the Report of the Registrar at the end of the section. There was no principle involved. This was only a drafting Amendment.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis) could not agree with that remark. As the clause stood the responsibility of deciding on a scheme was to be put on the Registrar of Friendly Societies, but now the Attorney General spoke of a chief Registrar. That seemed to imply that local Registrars were to decide on the merits of schemes, and that another official who was named for the first time was to make a report to Parliament.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL said there was a chief or principal Registrar who now made an annual report to Parliament. It was intended that to save a duplication of reports these reports should be included in the Paper which was now annually submitted to Parliament.

Amendment agreed to.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL moved, in Sub-section (6), to leave out the words

"Any workmen or their representatives shall submit to the said Registrar *primâ facie* evidence that,"

and to insert the words—

"complaint is made to the Registrar of Friendly Societies by or on behalf of the workmen of any employer."

He explained that this and several subsequent Amendments to Sub-section (6) were proposed with the object of showing clearly who should apply to the Registrar in the event of a desire to put an end to a scheme or to make an alteration in a scheme.

MR. J. WILSON (Durham, Mid) was desirous of knowing how these complaints were to be carried from the workman to the Registrar. Would it be necessary that three-fourths of the majority of the workmen should be in favour of the scheme? The proposal was very vague, and did not make it clear as to the machinery to be used. He hoped the Attorney General and the Colonial Secretary would indicate to them by what form of machinery the complaint made by the workmen could be conveyed to the Registrar? Would it, for instance, be competent for the trades union agent in an office in London to make a complaint on behalf of workmen in the far-off North of Scotland or remote parts of England? Would it be necessary for 300 out of 500 men to make a complaint? What he asked was the form of the machinery that would be set in motion as to the complaint when it was made?

MR. ROBERT ASCROFT (Oldham) thought the Amendment would be a very commendable improvement if the clause stood as it was, requiring *primâ facie* evidence; it would cause an immense amount of trouble and do a great deal of injury. All that was now required was that complaint should be made on behalf of the workmen.

SIR ROBERT REID (Dumfries Burghs) was understood to object to the words "by or on behalf of the workmen."

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL ventured to make an appeal to hon. Members to take these drafting Amendments a little bit more shortly. It was thought that the clause might be construed more widely than intended, and, therefore, those words were suggested. They wished to leave the Registrar unfettered and to give the power more to one workman, so that if it was an important matter the Registrar could deal with it, and if it was a trumpery matter he might refuse to deal with it. He could assure the House there was no evil design.

Mr. STUART-WORTLEY (Sheffield, Hallam) warned the Attorney General that representation might be made in such a way as not to give the true views of the workmen.

Mr. BURNS could see nothing to take exception to in the words proposed which would give to the plaintiff a better status than he would have under the Bill as it stood. ["Hear, hear!"] The Registrar would differentiate between trivial and serious complaints whether from one man or a thousand.

Mr. GIBSON BOWLES said the Bill as it stood required the production of *primâ facie* evidence, but this Amendment, which removed the last rag of protection from the employer, would allow the Registrar to proceed without any evidence at all. The Government did not require that there should be the smallest tittle of *primâ facie* evidence. They did not propose to require any evidence at all. The mere tittle tattle of the workshop, the discontent of one workman was to cause the whole of the scheme, over which so much trouble had been taken, to be reconsidered by the Registrar.

Colonel DENNY (Kilmarnock Burghs) thought the Attorney General had hardly considered the effect of this Amendment. What the House ought certainly to provide for was the protection of the majority of the workmen. His own belief was that no such scheme would come into existence; but if one did, it ought to have a chance. He did not think it was fair that an official in the position of the Registrar should be asked to interpret what the meaning of the Government was. He ought to have more definite instructions. ["Hear, hear!"]

Amendment agreed to.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL moved in Sub-section (6), after the word "longer," to insert the words "on the whole."

Amendment agreed to.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL moved in Sub-section (6) to leave out the word "workman," and to insert the word "workmen and such employer and their dependants."

Amendment agreed to.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL moved in Sub-section (6) to leave out the word "same," and to insert the word "scheme."

Amendment agreed to.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL moved in Sub-section (6) to leave out the word "employers," and to insert the word "employer."

Amendment agreed to.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL moved in Sub-section (6) to leave out the words "then he," and to insert the words "the Registrar."

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. J. WILSON (Falkirk Burghs) moved in Sub-section (6) after the word "certificate," to insert the words,

"whereupon the funds of the scheme shall be distributed as may be arranged between the employer and workman, or as may be determined by the Registrar of Friendly Societies in the event of a difference of opinion."

Amendment agreed to.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL moved in Sub-section (7) after the word "all," to insert the word "such."

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. RENSHAW moved in Sub-section (7), after the word "accounts," to insert the words "in regard to the scheme." It seemed to him that the expression "such accounts," used in the Bill, might involve an inquiry into the solvency of the employer. He thought it should be made clear that the accounts to be looked into were the accounts of the particular scheme only.

Amendment agreed to.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL moved in Sub-section (7) to leave out the words "from time to time."

Amendment agreed to.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL moved in Sub-section (7), after the word "be," to insert the words "made or."

Amendment agreed to.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL moved at the end of Sub-section (7) to add the words,

"The Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies shall include in his annual report the particulars of the proceedings of the Registrar under this Act."

He said that this was carrying out what he had promised on behalf of the Home Secretary.

MR. PRITCHARD MORGAN (Merthyr Tydvil) moved to leave out Clause 2. He said that under the clause the owner of a piece of land who was working the coal might let a contract for sinking a shaft, and might go away and absent himself from the country, leaving the sub-contractor in sole control of the work; and if any accident happened to a man or men working in the shaft, the sub-contractor alone would be liable to them. He apprehended that was not the intention of the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill. He understood that the object of the Bill was to protect the workmen, and that the employer should be the person liable to pay compensation for injuries to workmen. He had submitted the clause to four or five Members of the Bar, and not one of them had been able to thoroughly understand it. If the clause had any meaning at all, he submitted it was to make the sub-contractor liable. He thought the clause should be struck out, because it was unintelligible and obscure, and would involve everybody in considerable litigation.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL said he did not think the hon. Member would

consider him guilty of discourtesy if he did not argue this matter afresh. It was quite impossible for the Government to agree to strike out the clause. This question of sub-contracting formed the subject of a long discussion in 1893, and the Government had adopted this clause because it seemed to them on the whole to approximate as nearly as possible to a solution of the question. As far as the Government could judge the clause carried out the considered opinion of the country on this question. ["Hear, hear!"]

MR. H. H. ASQUITH (Fife, E.) said he thought his hon. Friend was under a misapprehension as to the effect of this clause. It would not relieve the Sub-contractor from anything for which he was not now liable, or impose any liability which he did not now bear. The clause as it stood would cover 99 cases out of a hundred.

Amendment negatived.

Clause 2,—

SUB-CONTRACTING.

Where any person in the execution of any work within the scope of his trade or business, and for the purpose of executing such work, is in occupation of or has control over the place or premises in or upon which such work is to be done, he shall be liable to any workman engaged in the execution of the work therein or thereupon for the amount of any claim which such workman may have under this Act, or in respect of personal negligence or wilful act independently of this Act, against any sub-contractor. Provided that any person liable under this section shall be entitled to indemnity against any other person who would have been liable independently of this section. All questions arising under this section shall be settled by arbitration in manner provided by this Act.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL moved, after the word "where," to insert the words, "in an employment to which this Act applies."

Amendment agreed to.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL moved to omit the words,—

"All questions arising under this section shall be settled by arbitration in manner provided by this Act."

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 3,—

LIABILITY OF CONTRACTOR FOR EXTRANEOUS WORK.

Where an employer who is the owner or occupier of any premises has engaged or contracted with any other person to execute any work, act, or thing in, upon, or about such premises not within the scope of the trade or business of such employer, and such other person employs or directs and controls the workmen engaged in such work, act, or thing, then, in the event of any of such workmen being injured whilst so engaged, such other person shall be deemed to be the employer of such workmen for the purposes of this Act, and not the owner or occupier of the premises.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL moved to leave out Clause 3. He said the clause was not only unnecessary, but dangerous. The probable liability was covered by the contract of employment and by the sub-contractor's clause of the Bill, and if the words of the clause were inserted, it might limit the right of the workman against the individual employer which he was entitled to have as well as the right of remedy against the chief employer. It therefore hampered the Bill.

MR. TOMLINSON said the clause interfered with the object of the Bill.

MR. C. A. CRIPPS (Gloucester, Stroud) said he desired to support what the Attorney General had said. He thought the clause was desirable for the protection of the employer, but as the principle of making the employer liable for the Act of any stranger had been adopted, the clause was quite unnecessary, and would complicate the Bill.

Motion agreed to; clause struck out.

Clause 4,—

COMPENSATION TO WORKMEN IN CASE OF BANKRUPTCY OF EMPLOYER.

Where any employer becomes liable under this Act to pay compensation to any workman or his representatives in respect of any accident, and is entitled to any sum from insurers in respect of such liability, then in the event of the bankruptcy or liquidation of such employer such workman or representative shall have a charge upon the sum aforesaid for the payment of the money so due to him.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL moved to leave out the words, "to any workman or his representatives."

Amendment agreed to.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee) moved, after the words, "sum of," to insert the words,—

"Sum of money for or in respect of the work or employment in the course of which the accident took place."

In other words, said the hon. Member, he desired to extend the scope of the clause by giving the workmen not only a charge upon money received and due to the employer from insurers, but a charge on any debt due to the employer in respect of the work in the course of which the accident happened. It was something like the labour lien which obtained in the United States.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL said the Amendment would involve an inquiry which could not possibly be traced out. and would lead to complications far beyond any advantage it would confer on the workman.

SIR R. REID hoped his hon. and learned Friend would not press this to a Division. It was a wide extension of the proposition that had been accepted that there should be a lien on the insurance fund. Most of them wanted to get the Bill through to-night, and this Amendment would lead to wide discussion.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendments made: After the words "in respect of," to insert the words "the amount due to a workman under."

To leave out the words "in the event of the bankruptcy or liquidation of such employer," and to insert

"employer becoming bankrupt, or making a composition or arrangement with his creditors, or if the employer is a company, of the company having commenced to be wound up."

To leave out the words "or representative."

Before the word "charge," to insert the word "first."

To leave out the words "money so due," and to insert the words "amount so due."—(*Attorney General.*)

MR. ASCROFT moved to leave out the words "to him," and to insert the words

"and the judge of the County Court of the district may direct the insurers to pay such sum into the Post Office Savings Bank in the name of the Registrar of such court."

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL said he thought the Amendment was a useful one, but it was suggested by the Post Office authorities that an addition should be made which he would accordingly move when these words were agreed to.

Amendment agreed to.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL moved to add after the words last inserted the words

"and the provisions in the first schedule thereto, with reference to investment in the Post Office Savings Bank of any sum allotted as compensation, shall be applied to any sum so directed to be paid."

Amendment agreed to.

MR. J. B. BALFOUR (Clackmannan and Kinross) on behalf of Mr. URE (Linlithgow) moved after the words last inserted to add,—

"In the application of this Act to Scotland, the words 'have a first charge upon' shall mean 'be preferentially entitled to.'"

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL said he understood his hon. and learned Friend desired to add these words simply to make the Bill in accordance with the law of Scotland, and he was quite satisfied therefore to accept them.

Amendment agreed to.

MR. ALFRED BILLSON (Halifax) moved after the words last inserted to add the words:—

"All compensation payable under this Act shall have the like priority in payment in case of bankruptcy or winding up as wages under the Preferential Payments in Bankruptcy Act 1888, or any other Act for the time being regulating the priority of wages in bankruptcy or winding up."

They had heard on the introduction of the Bill that it was to provide for what the Colonial Secretary happily called the wounded soldiers of industry, and that that provision should come from the trade. Nobody supposed, however, that the provision was coming out of the profits of the employer, but out of new charges or new means of revenue, either by the reduction of wages or the increase of prices. The object which they had in moving this Amendment was to take care that the workman got the provision which was made. It was said that this was not a question between an employer and the injured workman, but between the workman and his fellow sufferers the other creditors. But the other creditors came in voluntarily to do business with the firm because they chose to trust it. Moreover the injured workman was not to get his remedy all at once, but by means of payments week by week, and he could never press for a lump sum. They did not ask the House to require the employer to set aside a sum, but that this was to be a matter of preference between this particular creditor, the injured workman, and the other creditors. There was also the question of debenture holders. He pointed out that they did not allow the workman to commute his payment.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN said he did not know whether the hon. Member for Halifax was to be considered a friend of the Bill.

MR. BILLSON: Certainly.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN accepted the hon. Member's declaration, but he must protest against the hon. Member's Amendment as being altogether unfriendly to the Bill. This was one of the Amendments moved in Committee and discussed in Committee. He did not know whether there was a Division upon it.

*SIR C. DILKE: There was.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN said the Committee had decided by a large majority against the proposal, and it was hardly fair, and certainly it was contrary to precedent, to bring up on Report a matter that had been decided in Committee—[*cries of* "No, no!"]—and make over again exactly the same speeches in support of it. The Bill provided that the workman should have the first charge on the insurance, but to give him further a preferential claim on the estate as against creditors who might be in no better position than the workman would not be an unfair arrangement.

SIR R. REID said the object of the Report stage was to give an opportunity for considering important matters, and his view was that the Amendment raised an important question. Unless the Amendment were adopted an injured workman in receipt of 10s. a week from an employer as compensation for an accident would, in the event of the bankruptcy of that employer, have his weekly allowance stopped, and have to wait perhaps for years before he got a dividend from the estate.

MR. SYDNEY GEDGE (Walsall) said that if the compensation were to take precedence over all other claims in the case of bankruptcy it would ruin the credit of the employer—it would prevent him from getting raw material on credit, or the temporary loan necessary to tide him over a time of difficulty, and it would also render impossible the rapid winding-up of bankruptcy estates.

MR. E. ROBERTSON said he could not understand the position taken up by his hon. and learned Friend the Member for Dumfries. [*Ministerial laughter.*] In Committee he had moved an Amendment which was but a mere fragment of the Amendment now before the House. He proposed to make the compensation a preferential charge on a portion of the assets of the employer—that portion which he had earned with the help of the labour of the workman. His hon. and learned Friend advised him to withdraw the Amendment, and, in deference to his hon. and learned Friend, he did withdraw it—[*laughter*]—and now his hon. and learned Friend supported a much larger extension of that Amendment. [*Laughter.*]

MR. J. WILSON (Durham, Mid) said that if the Government desired to be consistent, they should, according to the doctrine of the Colonial Secretary, have refused to accept on Report any Amendment to any principle inserted in the Bill by vote or by compromise in Committee. He said the Bill sprang from the principle that when a workman was injured in the course of his employment he had a claim on the industry in which he was engaged before anyone else. Why then should an injured workman stand in the same category with an ordinary creditor? The ordinary creditor traded with his eyes open; he knew the risks; but it was different with the workman, he had no means of knowing the financial condition of his employer. Again, the wages of a workman in full health had a preferential claim on an estate in bankruptcy, and if that were right and just—and who would dispute it?—surely it was right and just, surely there was a greater reason, that the compensation of a disabled workman should be placed above the claim of any other creditor? Pressure had been brought to bear on the Government to induce them to change their position in regard to certain points. But the workmen had sent no deputations to terrorise the Government, and he asked the Government to consider, not so much whether it was consistent with their action on the Committee stage, but whether it was right and just that compensation for accident should have the same preferential treatment as wages?

Question put, "That those words be there inserted." The House divided:—Ayes, 134; Noes, 212.—(Division List, No. 282.)

MR. ASCROFT moved to add after the words last inserted the following words:

"Every employer who insures against liability under this Act or the Employers' Liability Act 1880 in respect of injuries sustained by the workmen in his employment shall cause a notice containing the name and address of the insurance office with which he insures to be kept constantly affixed at such place or places open to the workmen, and in such a position that it may be easily seen, read, and copied by such workmen."

If the name of the insurance office were posted at the works, said the hon. Member, an opportunity would be given to the workpeople, in case they could not get defective machinery made right by the employer, to communicate with the insurance office, who would call the attention of the employer to it and have the matter remedied. Such a provision as this would in all probability prevent a great number of accidents. In his own constituency within the last few days an accident had occurred, through dangerous machinery not being fenced, by which a workman had lost his life. At the coroner's inquest the factory inspector stated that he had never known of a worse case of negligence, and the coroner told the jury that they ought to bring in a verdict of manslaughter against the employer. These cases, he admitted, were few and far between, but, at the same time, if anything could be done by which the workmen's safety could be assured it ought to be done, and he therefore proposed the adoption of this Amendment. ["Hear, hear!"]

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY, Lancashire, Blackpool): could not agree to the insertion of these words. He quite understood and sympathised with the object of his hon. Friend, but he failed to see how the position of the workman would be materially improved by this Amendment, whilst it would certainly impose a troublesome and onerous condition upon the employer. If any practical object could be served by the Amendment he should not resist it, but he was of opinion that no substantial end would be gained by it. ["Hear, hear!"]

Question put, "That those words be there inserted." The House divided:—Ayes, 89; Noes, 213.—(Division List, No. 283.)

Clause 5,—

APPLICATION OF ACT AND DEFINITIONS.

(1.) This Act shall apply only to employment on, in, or about a railway, factory, mine, quarry, or engineering work, and to employment on, in, or about any building exceeding thirty feet in height, which is being constructed, demolished, or repaired by means of a scaffolding, or on which machinery driven by steam, water, or other mechanical power is being used for the purpose of the construction, demolition, or repair thereof.

(2.) In this Act—

"Railway" means the railway of any railway company to which the Regulation of Railways Act 1873 applies, and "railway" and "railway company" have the same meaning as in that Act, and includes light railways made under the Light Railways Act 1896.

"Factory" has the same meaning as in the Factory and Workshop Acts 1878 to 1891, and also includes any dock, wharf, quay, warehouse, machinery, or plant, to which any provision of the Factory Acts is applied by the Factory and Workshop Act 1895, and every laundry worked by steam, water, or other mechanical power.

"Mine" means a mine to which the Coal Mines Regulation Act 1887, or the Metalliferous Mines Regulation Act 1872 applies.

"Quarry" means a quarry under the Quarries Act 1894.

"Engineering work" means any work of construction or alteration of a railroad, harbour, dock, canal, or sewer, and includes any other work on which machinery driven by steam, water, or other mechanical power is used for the purpose of the construction or alteration thereof.

"Employer" includes any body of persons corporate or unincorporate.

"Workman" includes every person wh is engaged in an employment to which thi Act applies, whether by way of manua labour or otherwise, and whether his agreement is one of service or apprenticeship o otherwise, and is expressed or implied, i oral or in writing."

*SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY moved in Sub-section (1), after the words "This Act shall apply only to employment," to insert the words "by the undertakers as hereinafter defined." He said that the object of the Amendment was to make it perfectly clear that the person liable to pay compensation was the person really employing the injured man.

MR. TOMLINSON asked whether the word "undertakers" had a proper legal construction?

*SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY said that it was the word adopted by the draftsman.

Amendment agreed to.

*SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY moved in Sub-section (1) after the words "employment on," to insert the word "or."

Amendment agreed to.

*SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY moved to leave out the words "or about." He said that the Bill was not intended to apply to outworkers.

MR. ASQUITH did not agree that the words would be sufficiently comprehensive amended as proposed, and classes of workmen would be excluded who should have the benefit of the Bill. For instance, taking the case of railway employés. Of those employed by railway companies a considerable number were those the main part of whose work was not carried on on the railway at all, or only for a certain comparatively limited number of hours, the men who were engaged in loading and unloading vans. This was an important class of railway servants and, moreover, they were engaged in a very hazardous occupation, and were just as liable to suffer injury in unloading vans in a crowded street as in the comparatively greater seclusion and security of the railway goods depôt. Under such circumstances it would be an entire novelty, it would be news to the working classes to know that this class would be entirely excluded from the Bill except as regarded the comparatively small number of hours they were employed on the premises of the company. He did not wish to argue on the logical consistency of the lines of obstruction drawn in the Bill, but he was quite sure that no man exposed to these risks could be convinced that he was not as fully entitled to compensation as the men engaged in shunting, or the porters whose work was to put passengers' luggage in a train. This was an illustration, and he might multiply such illustrations. Take another instance from the building trade. Very properly the Government had included building operations within the scope of the Bill, though he wished they had not included the limitations they had inserted. The words at present were "on, in, or about any building," and if the word "about" were left out a builder's workman would only be entitled to compensation if actually in or on the building itself. But a man might be employed on the ground immediately adjoining, and a very large proportion of accidents occurred to men in this situation from the fall of materials.

*MR. SPEAKER reminded the right hon. Gentleman that there was a separate Amendment in regard to buildings which would come on later.

MR. ASQUITH said he believed the Government were going to apply the same Amendment, but he only used the reference to building as an illustration of his argument. These were familiar and obvious cases, illustrating what would happen if the Amendment were adopted. This was not a matter to divide the two sides of the House, and he appealed to the Government, in the interest of the Bill, and crediting them with a desire to make it a large and comprehensive Measure, not to introduce a discrimination for which it was impossible to find any reason in justice, and which would produce a deep and widespread sense of injustice. He might add, in order to dispel the notion if it existed anywhere, that the liability under the Bill was too comprehensive, that by the language of the first clause the only responsibility imposed on the employer was in respect to accidents "arising out of and in the course of the employment." These were limiting words; it would have to be shown that the accident occurred within that area, and the area was sufficiently narrow. It was not the proper way to define the area and then further limit that area, as would be the result of this Amendment, rendering the Bill a much less satisfactory and comprehensive Measure. He hoped the Home Secretary would reconsider his proposal.

*SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY said this was rather in the nature of a drafting Amendment. It was not intended to narrow the scope of the Bill to the extent to which the right hon. Gentleman appeared to think it would. He was not particularly anxious for the Amendment, and would not press it.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. LAWSON WALTON (Leeds, S.) said he gathered from the fact of railways being included in the industries enumerated, that the Bill was intended for the protection of all persons connected with the trade of carrying goods or passengers for inland transit. It was impossible to distinguish on any principle of reason, between the transit of goods by railway and the transit of goods by water way. In both cases you deal with a department of trade connected with the carriage of goods or passengers, and in both cases you were dealing with a distinctly inland traffic, and you have the same class of persons brought into contact with the goods. There was no reason why the protection extended to men employed in the railway transit should not be extended to the men employed in handling the goods conveyed by canals, rivers, and inland waters. Three tests the Home Secretary applied to the industries included in his Bill. First, that there should be a considerable degree of risk; secondly, the investment of a large amount of capital in the undertaking; and thirdly, facilities for insurance. Now, those who were employed in the carriage of goods by canals and rivers were exposed to a considerable degree of risk; the carriage of such goods was an undertaking in a few hands, and required the investment of large capital, and the risks could be easily covered by insurance. So, then, the argument for the inclusion of canal and river carrying trade within the scale of the Bill was considerably advanced. One objection he anticipated. It might be said that this was a branch of the shipping trade of the country; but that was an argument that would scarcely be used by any hon. Member familiar with the Merchant Shipping, and Navigation Acts. They applied to sea-faring vessels, and this purely inland branch of trade did not come within the provision of those Acts. The Amendment proposed a large concession, but it was a reasonable one, and would add largely to the popularity and acceptability of the Bill. He moved, in Sub-section (1), after the word "railway," to insert the words—

"or in or about any vessels ordinarily employed and whilst employed in the carriage of passengers or goods upon any inland waters."

*Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY said he thought this proposal was made in Committee.

Mr. WALTON: No.

*Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY said notice of it was given if it was not moved. Of course, it was very easy, as he had admitted at the beginning of these discussions, to discover certain industries closely allied to those included in the Bill, as to which it was rather difficult to draw any logically clear line of distinction. But the definitions in the clause fairly met the necessities of the case. The hon. and learned Gentleman asked that the Bill should apply to all the canals and rivers in the country, to all boats carrying goods or passengers, to all steamers on the Thames and other rivers, and all ferry-boats wherever they were to be found. It was a large extension, and he hoped the House would not insert it in the Bill. From the first it had been admitted that the Bill had only a limited application, though it applied to half the working population of the country, and he had hoped that, by the discussions in Committee as regards the industries included, they had settled the scope of the Bill. He trusted the House would not make further extensions.

*Sir FRANCIS POWELL (Wigan) thought the Government were right in opposing this extension. Circumstances did not justify this inclusion. On inland waters the risk was not great, and the loss of life in the trade very small. A very large amount of the canal traffic was not conducted by the canal companies, but by small trades owning a few boats.

Mr. Lawson Walton.

Colonel DENNY said the acceptance of the amendment would interfere with the Merchant Shipping Act. For example, vessels sailing from Glasgow to Manchester come under the scope of this Bill at one particular part of their voyage, namely, while passing along the Ship Canal, and so would vessels on passing Gravesend on their way to to the port London. This would lead to great mischief and confusion, and the Government were only fulfilling a pledge they gave to ship owners by declining to accept the Amendment.

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON (Tower Hamlets, Poplar) understood the Amendment would not apply to the vessels mentioned by the hon. Member, because these came under the definition of sea-going vessels. Now, a large part, if not the bnlk, of the canals were under the control of the railway companies, and it was a ridiculous thing that men working on one part of a railway company's undertaking should be able to claim compensation, while men engaged on another part of the same company's undertaking should be excluded.

Mr. STUART-WORTLEY said that whether the canals belonged to the railway companies or whether it was the fact that the largest and most important of the canals were independent concerns, however that might be, the Amendment was not going to place liability upon those great corporations, because those canal undertakings were simply toll-taking undertakings, and the vessels would ply, along their waterways, and in or about which accidents might happen, belonged in a great number of cases to independent owners.

Mr. BURNS thought the arguments of the hon. Member for Wigan were excellent arguments why the Amendment should be accepted. Where a man owned five or six monkey barges at work on a canal and called into his service a man and woman and sometimes two or three children to work the barge, and an accident befalls, he ought to be liable for the consequences. The hon. Member for Kilmarnock ought to know perfectly well there was no possible chance of the sea-going industry being included, having regard to the conditions would differentiate a barge and lighter from a sea-going vessel. If the Amendment were adopted, only one thing was necessary to prevent its being extended to merchant vessels which go to sea, and that was to add on the words, "all vessels the officers of which are granted certificates by the Board of Trade shall be exempted." He could not see why the Home Secretary should not accept the Amendment *plus* the words he suggested.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES pointed out that the Amendment proposed to apply the Bill to an entirely new kind of industry. Whatever cause there might be for extending the Bill to sea-going vessels, there was much less ground for applying it to vessels in inland waters. This inland water trade was an immense trade, and to apply the Bill to every barge and every boat on every river in the United Kingdom would probably be to bring in a class as large as all who were already brought within its sweep. [*A laugh.*] The point he wished to emphasise was, that this was a proposal to extend the Bill to an entirely new industry. The Government wished to restrict its scope. If in introducing a principle of this kind they were going to extend it to everybody there would be more to be said for the Bill, and still more if the liability was to be on the nation at large. ["Hear, hear!"] But it was impossible to suppose that this principle could be introduced into the Bill now. The Bill had been restricted to certain employers, upon those employers all the burden of the Bill would be thrown, and certainly, although he had always the greatest respect for Amendments moved by his hon. Friend opposite, he was afraid it would be impossible to vote for this one.

Question put, "That those words be there inserted."—The House divided—Ayes, 80; Noes, 168.—(Division List, No. 284.)

On the return of Mr. SPEAKER after the usual interval,

MR. LIONEL HOLLAND (Tower Hamlets, Bow and Bromley) moved in Sub-section (1), after the word "railway," to insert the words "or tramway." He did not intend to raise a debate on the question of the inclusion of tramways. That question was debated on the Committee stage, and he was not going to say anything further as to the general expediency of including tramways in this Act, except that it seemed to him that as many of the tramways were owned by Municipal Authorities, and of the remainder the chief part were owned by substantial companies, they were in every sense undertakings which might be safely included. But the point he wished to raise was an entirely different one. When he first read the Bill he thought it was the intention of the framers of the measure to include tramways. That intention was, of course, negatived; in fact, the Government refused to include them on the Committee stage. He doubted, however, whether as a matter of fact on the terms of the Bill as now drawn, tramways were not already included within the provisions of the Bill; and in this view he believed he was supported by a fair amount of Legal Opinion. A railway was defined in the Bill as the railway of any Railway Companies to which the Regulation of Railways Act, 1873 applied. A railway was to have the same meaning as in the Act of 1873, but when he looked at that Act he found no definition of railway at all. A railway company was defined as including any person being the owner or lessee of, or working, any railway in the United Kingdom, constructed or carried on under the powers of any Act of Parliament. For the definition of a railway one had to hark back to the Railway Regulations Acts of 1868 and 1871, and there it was said, "a railway is the whole or any portion of a railway or tramway whether worked by steam or otherwise, which has been authorised by any special Act of Parliament or by any certificate under any Act of Parliament." From the point of view of law tramways were under the Railway Regulations Act, and were subject also to the control of the Railway Commissioners, although that control had not been exercised. His contention, therefore, was that it was probable that if the Bill did not specifically exclude tramways they were, as a matter of fact, included, and he submitted that tramways were eminently undertakings which could suitably be included in the provisions of the Bill. He begged to move, in Sub-section (1), after the word "railway," to insert the words "or tramway."

MR. B. L. COHEN (Islington, E.) supported the Amendment. While he appreciated the desire of the Government not to extend the operation of the Bill, he submitted to the Attorney General that there were no body of men more deserving of being brought under the Bill than the employés of tramways. They fulfilled almost every condition laid down by the Government which entitled men to compensation. Tramways were in few instances owned by small owners, and their working would become the more dangerous the more electric traction became developed. Almost every accident which befell a tramway employé was the result of his following his employment. Lastly, the accidents to which the men fell victims arose, in almost every instance, from circumstances beyond their control, and from risks which they incurred in the service and for the advantage of their employers. He, therefore, hoped the Government would see their way to accept this Amendment.

SIR A. FORWOOD (Lancashire, Ormskirk) remarked that every day the use of mechanical power on tramways was increasing, and he could not see any difference between a tramway worked by such power and a railway. He therefore moved to amend the Amendment by substituting "including" for "or" and adding after tramway "worked by mechanical power."

*MR. SPEAKER pointed out that the Debate might with advantage be taken upon the Amendment as it stood.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL admitted that there were no more deserving body of employés than tramway men. He could not, however, accept the Amendment, because if he agreed to this extension of the provisions of the Bill the Government would be bombarded with with all kinds of suggestions in the direction of extensions. Whether they were right or wrong they must adhere to the line they had laid down. It was not possible for him to accept the words "or tramways," and in order to save discussion he might say now that even if those words were carried he could not assent to the words "worked by mechanical power."

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON thought that all parties in the House were agreed that this extension might reasonably be made. He gladly supported the extension of the operation of the Bill to mechanical tramways, and between such tramways and light railways there was absolutely no distinction whatever. He regretted that the Attorney General, in a matter which did not affect a large number of men, but still a very deserving class, had not seen his way to accept the proposal.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. HARRY FOSTER (Suffolk, Lowestoft) moved in Sub-section (1), after the word "quarry" to insert the word "agricultural." He explained that the Amendments would admit agricultural labourers to the benefits of the measure. The strongest argument in favour of the proposition, which must commend itself to every Member of the House, was that the agricultural labourer of all classes of workmen was the least able by reason of the smallness of the wages he earned to provide against accidents. Admittedly the wages of an agricultural labourer was barely a living wage, and that being so the men had not the wherewithal to join a Provident Society. If it were possible to do it these men were entitled to inclusion. But it was objected to that this would have the effect of enlarging too much the scope of the Bill, that the Bill was an experiment, and if it was successful the time would then come for extending its scope. He thought that the answer to that was, that if included it would not add anything to the burden of the agriculturists according to the statement of the Home Secretary. If the Bill were to be an experimental one he respectfully asked the Government why agriculture should not be included in the experiment; he doubted whether the dangerous trades would give much instruction to the Government. He did not see how accidents in coal mines were going to afford much guidance as to what was going to happen in the agricultural districts. He had no desire to repeat the arguments used on former occasions, but he should not be doing his duty if he did not give the Government an opportunity of reconsidering, whether they would include the agricultural labourers within the scope of the Bill. He thought the agricultural labourer would be exceedingly grateful if he were included. If he were excluded it would give some colour to statements made on the other side, that while the Government wished to guard certain classes of toilers and workers, they did not care to include the agricultural labourers.

MR. EDWARD MORTON (Devonport) said when this proposal was last before the House it was argued that it would bear hardly on small farmers; but when the Government was passing last year an Act through that House to aid distressed agriculture, they were told that the benefit of that Act would go to the tenant-farmer. Now the benefit given to the farmer under that Act would reach four times the amount that would be necessary for him to expend in insuring all the agricultural labourers on his farm at the highest rate of insurance.

MR. TOMLINSON expressed his regret that the Government had not included some great system of insurance.

MR. M. BIDDULPH (Herefordshire, Ross) hoped if the Government could not include agriculture in this Bill, they would soon introduce another Bill to remove the exclusion.

MR. BROADHURST said there was no class in the community that were more necessary to be protected than the agricultural labourers, and now the hon. Member came forward with his belated Amendment after the battle had been twice fought over.

MR. HARRY FOSTER said he had all along advocated the inclusion of agriculturists.

MR. BROADHURST hoped, if the hon. Member were in earnest, he would take a Division. [" Hear, hear!"]

MR. F. S. STEVENSON (Suffolk, Eye) suggested that if the Government could not include all the agricultural labourers, they might at least make a compromise, and include those men employed on the large farms.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL said he knew from experience that there were many small holders whose yearly earnings were not more than the wages of a superior labourer, and he was satisfied that there was no analogy between the agricultural industry and the great industries dealt with in the Bill. Agriculturists were in a different position altogether to railway companies, mine owners and factory owners, and he could not help thinking that any hon. Member who had had experience of rural life would agree that the conditions were altogether different. At this stage of the Bill the Government could not make any further concessions to the many claims that had been made for inclusion in the Bill, and they could not accept this Amendment.

MR. GEORGE LAMBERT (Devon, South Molton) said the agricultural labourers were the worst paid in the whole community of labour. They had no provident funds of their own, and were absolutely unable to lay up any money whereby to provide against accident. It was contended by the Government that the agricultural industry would not allow of an extra charge being put upon it; but the Government had not considered other industries from that point of view. They had put a charge upon them whether distressed or not. [" Hear, hear!"] In many cases of small holders, it would, no doubt, be impossible for them to pay down a lump sum, but he was inclined to think that the Government might very well carry out the suggestion made by the hon. Member for the Horncastle Division in Committee—that if a tenant farmer brought to his landlord the receipt of the premium for insurance against accidents to labourers, the landlord should pay the compensation or the farmer be entitled to deduct it from the rent. If compensation for injury were to be a tax on one industry why not on all, and if it were to be a tax on the agricultural industry, why should it not fall on the landlords? [" Hear, hear!"] The Government had a chance of settling this matter now, and if they did not do so, it would be made the rallying cry in many agricultural constituencies.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: How about Petersfield?

MR. LAMBERT said he did not wish to be drawn by the hon. and learned Gentleman —[*laughter*]— into an irrelevant interruption; but he thought that election was a very encouraging sign to hon. Gentlemen sitting on his side of the House. [" Hear, hear!"] They were told that agriculture could be dealt with in another Bill, but by the addition of one word to this Bill, the

Government could settle the matter, and bring a very deserving class under the purview of the Bill. ["Hear, hear!"]

MR. H. J. TENNANT (Berwickshire) said he would be recognised as a strenuous supporter of the Bill, but he wished to plead earnestly for the inclusion of the agricultural labourer. In his constituency the farms were larger on the average than in any other Scotch constituency, and probably in any English constituency. He believed the average was about 230 acres. It stood to reason that in a farm of that size much machinery must be used, and from time to time many accidents had been brought to his notice. That morning he had received a letter from the Inspector of Factories asking him to move for a return of the accidents which had happened to agricultural labourers. In view of the very serious accidents which occurred almost constantly, it was of the utmost importance that the House and the country should realise that here was a great opportunity for the Government to give compensation for them; but the Government were afraid to extend what they maintained was to be a great boon to the working classes, to the largest class of labourers in the country. ["Hear, hear!"]

MR. FREDERICK WILSON (Norfolk, Mid) said that the House during the present week had emphasised the need of protection to agricultural labourers in a very remarkable way. Only on Tuesday last it had unanimously passed a modest measure—the Accidents from Chaff Cutters Bill, the object of which was to prevent injuries to agricultural labourers. On one day the House declared the need of agricultural labourers for protective legislation, on the next it was asked to declare that labourers should be excluded from the compensation given to coal miners and others. ["Hear, hear!"]

MR. HARRY FOSTER said that as the Government declined to make any further concession he would ask leave to withdraw the Amendment. [*Cries of* "No, no!"]

Question put, "That the word 'Agricultural' be there inserted:" — The House divided:—Ayes, 90; Noes, 141. —[Division List, No. 285].

Mr. G. Lambert.

*SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY moved in Sub-section (1) after the word "employment," to insert the words "by the undertakers as hereinafter defined."

Amendment agreed to.

*SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY moved in Sub-section (1) to leave out the word "exceeding," and to insert the words "which exceeds."

*MR. SPEAKER said the hon. Member for Dumfries-shire had an Amendment on this point on the Paper, and he had better argue it now, as the adoption of the right hon. Gentleman's Amendment would defeat the object of it, by affirming that there should be some limit of height.

MR. SOUTTAR said that the Amendment which he had put down proposed to leave out the words "exceeding thirty feet in height." He contended that the words of the clause were ambiguous. Did the Government mean that buildings, when finished, should be of the height of 30 feet, or intend that no compensation should be claimed by any workman unless he was working on a building which had reached the height of 30 feet? It had been said that small builders would be excluded from the Bill by the stipulation. Small builders were not people who built small houses, but who took sub-contracts on other people's buildings, and did jobbing work generally. The inclusion of the words he wished to omit would not help small builders, but would injure workmen employed by big builders. When workmen were employed on a building 30 feet 6 inches in height their lives and limbs would be at the risk of the insurance company, but when engaged on a building only 29 feet 6 inches or 30 feet in height their lives and limbs would be at their own peril. The insurance companies only would benefit by the clause. They would draft their policies precisely on the lines of the Bill, and fight everything which did not seem to be within the four corners of it. The consequences would be that in many cases working men in the country would be uninsured whether their employers were little builders or big builders. There was a far larger percentage of accidents in the country than in towns because there was less supervision. The more general the Act was in its application the more smoothly it would work. [" Hear, hear !"

MR. RENSHAW said he believed the result of leaving out these limiting words would be to drive the jobbing builders to the great cities. It was because he believed that if they did not take some steps to preserve the position at present occupied by comparatively small builders in the rural parts of the country that he hoped the Government would keep these limiting words in the Bill. He regarded them as of the greatest possible importance.

MR. BURNS said the only interpretation which could be put upon the speech of the hon. Member for Renfrew was that the building trade in the country districts was maintained simply because the builders now had an opportunity of injuring their workmen—[*cries of* " Oh ! "] —and subjecting them to a condition of industry that was not allowed in the large towns. The limit of 30ft. would exclude nearly all the dock sheds that were erected in the large towns, nearly all the railway sheds, many market buildings, and other large sheds and warehouses. It seemed ridiculous that they should exclude buildings of 30ft. in height, and say nothing about buildings 30ft. in depth. He could not understand why the Government had fixed this limit. The Government wanted to restrict the Bill as much as possible, and this arbitrary limit could not be defended.

MR. J. SAMUEL (Stockton) thought they ought to have some answer from the Government. The small builders were more or less jobbing men. He pointed out that in the north of England the bulk of the two-storey houses were only 30ft. high. He thought it a great hardship that bricklayers, joiners, and others engaged on houses 30ft. high should be excluded from the provisions of the Bill. He thought the exclusion would give very great dissatisfaction.

*SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY said it would be within the recollection of the House that when the Bill passed through Committee there was an addition made in respect of buildings, and the Bill in its present form was therefore larger in its scope than when it was introduced into the House. [" Hear, hear ! "] The Government assented to the addition of buildings with this limitation of 30ft., which was well known under the Factory Act of 1895. They did not say that it was altogether a logical definition, but what they said was that in applying this Act to various trades they were taking the already established definition. If they were continually pressed to extend the Bill in further directions they could only answer that they really could not consent to do it. They quite admitted that the Bill was not in the shape which legislation affecting this subject would ultimately take, and that all the trades which would ultimately come in were not yet included.

MR. BUXTON said he was afraid that as the Bill now stood in regard to this matter it would certainly lead to a great deal of litigation. There was no logical difference between the right of a man to compensation when he fell off a scaffolding 30ft. high and when he fell off a scaffolding 29ft. high. The question would arise also at a particular moment when a building was being constructed or demolished as to whether compensation was due. There were many cases in which it would be almost impossible to say what was the height of a scaffolding. Moreover, the scaffolding at one side of a building might be of a different height from the scaffolding on the other side.

MR. WILLIAM BOUSFIELD (Hackney, N.) said that probably the Home Secretary would remember that this was a point which in Committee the Government promised they would consider on the Report stage. No doubt the Government had taken the line of least resistance in getting the Bill through, but it seemed to him that this was one of the cases in which the action taken by the Government was not altogther happy. He did not advocate the extension of the Bill. It was of small importance how large or how narrow the boundaries of the Bill were when if left the House, for the Bill was to a certain extent experimental. It was intended to apply a new principle to certain definite trades, and all the House was concerned with was that the experiment should be a definite and fair one. But he thought the line that was drawn in this case was about the shadowiest and most nebulous that could be drawn, and it was certain to lead to a tremendous amount of dispute and discussion in the Law Courts.

MR. BROADHURST said it was due to the Home Secretary to bear witness to the very handsome manner in which he had redeemed his pledge in Committee. He had an Amendment down to include within the Bill all branches of the building trade. The Home Secretary said it was impossible for the Government to accept that Amendment, but that if it were withdrawn he would undertake to bring in an Amendment that would go some distance towards meeting the case submitted. The right hon. Gentleman gave rather more than he had promised, and he remembered that the whole Committee was well satisfied. [*Cries of* "No!"] Then he would say a great number of the Committee were well satisfied with the Amendment inserted by the right hon. Gentleman. The Government had admitted that the line they had drawn in the present case was most anomalous, and they only justified it by the fact that it was the language used by the late Home Secretary's Act of 1895. But under that Act there had been many difficulties; and, indeed, divergencies and differences of opinion must occur until they made a clean sweep of the whole of the exceptions which were made in this Bill, and provided that compensation should be paid to all and everyone injured in the course of employment.

MR. PARKER SMITH (Lanark, Partick) did not think the line drawn was quite satisfactory. The real distinction ought to be, not as to the height of the building at the time of the accident, but the final height of the building as it was intended to be.

*MR. A. D. PROVAND (Glasgow, Blackfriars) observed that the building trade was included within the scope of the Bill because it was a dangerous trade, but the most dangerous part of that trade would be excluded by the language of the clause. For instance, it provided that the Bill should only apply to buildings 30ft. in height while being constructed or demolished if scaffolding were made use of. But there were few cases of demolition where scaffolding was used at all. It was one of the most dangerous branches of the building trade, in which many accidents occurred, and yet a man injured in such work would by this Bill be excluded from any compensation whatever, no matter how high the building was. The Home Secretary had told them that this 30ft. limit had been taken from the Factory Act of 1895. But the Factory Act had nothing to do with the demolition of buildings at all, so that there was no possible connection between the two cases. He therefore suggested to the right hon. Gentleman that he must make some change in this clause to meet the case of the demolition of structures, otherwise the Bill would apply to the least dangerous part of the building trade and not to the most dangerous part, although the building trade itself had been included because it was dangerous. If the clause were not altered and made fixed and definite, it would lead to that very litigation which they were all desirous to avoid, and that, too, to an extent it was impossible at present to conceive. He hoped the Home Secretary would make some change in the direction suggested, but, if not, then he trusted the hon. Member for Dumfriesshire would go to a Division on his Amendment.

Question put, "That the words 'which exceeds' be there inserted."

The House divided:—Ayes, 176; Noes, 111.—(Division List, No. 286.)

Amendment made: In Sub-section (1) leave out the word "which," and insert the word "and."—(*Sir Matthew White Ridley.*)

MR. TENNANT moved, in Sub-section (1), to leave out the words "repaired by means of a scaffolding." The Amendment was not an extension of the Bill because the Government were kind enough in Committee to accept the words he moved, "demolish," and, later, "demolition." He was informed that in the demolition of buildings scaffolding was very rarely employed. He understood that when the Government accepted the words "demolish" and "demolition" they really meant the Amendment to be effective, and, therefore, in the interests of the Bill, he maintained that the Government should accept the Amendment.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL said, whatever might be the view as to the use of scaffolding in demolition works, it would be quite impossible to leave out the words as they stood, for, as the construction of the clause stood, they governed, not only demolition, but repairs also. He would not say but if in another place an endeavour should be made to make a special exception in reference to demolishing, something might be said in favour of it.

MR. TENNANT said if the Home Secretary would give some undertaking that in another place the word "demolished" should be transposed, and come in after the word "scaffolding," or in some way the object should be effected, he would withdraw his Amendment.

MR. BURNS appealed to the Government not to reject this very sensible Amendment. As the clause stood, it would almost exclude the work of demolition from the Bill, and the workmen who were technically known as "house-breakers"—not those whose nocturnal occupations excite the interest of the police, but the men who were engaged in pulling down buildings—would laugh at the idea of using scaffolding. If, for instance, workmen were engaged in pulling down a shot tower, their work would be more dangerous if they used scaffolding than if they dispensed with it. There was no reason why house-breakers should not have the benefit of the Bill, and such compensation in case of injury as it offered. If the suggestion of the hon. Member were accepted, there was no reason why "demolishing" should not be defined in a way to remove the objection indicated by means of Amendment in another place.

*SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY said these words were added to please hon. Gentlemen opposite. It appeared now that the position of the words "by means of a scaffolding," made the clause unsatisfactory, and though he could not undertake to accept the exact proposal now made, the point raised was well worthy of consideration, and he would undertake that that consideration should be given to it.

MR. TENNANT said after what had fallen from the Home Secretary he would ask leave to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

SIR A. FORWOOD said he should occupy the attention of the House but a few moments in moving the insertion of the proviso of which he had given notice. Both sides of the House had expressed satisfaction with the general principle of the Bill; in fact, so strong had been the feeling of the House expressed on behalf of the Bill that a long time had been occupied at each stage in preventing contracting out of the Bill by workmen. The object of his proposal was to enable employers, if they wished to do so, to contract themselves into the Act, giving their workmen the benefits it conferred. There were many employments in the country, many descriptions of work, comparatively non-dangerous in character, insurance in respect to which would be very small in amount, and he was satisfied that many employers would be willing to protect themselves by the small cost of insurance and give their men the benefit of the provisions of the Act. He therefore hoped the Government would allow the insertion of this proviso to enable employers to apply the Act to their trade should they think fit to do so by agreement with their men. He proposed, at the end of Sub-section (1), to insert,—

"Provided that it shall be lawful for any employer engaged in an employment to which this Act does not apply to elect that it shall thenceforward apply to the workman in his employment in the same manner as if it had been expressly made applicable thereto, but no right to damages which may have accrued to any workman before such election has been made shall be in any way affected thereby. Such election on the part of any employer shall be signified by contract in writing, signed by the employer, or an agent on his behalf, and the workmen, or by notice kept constantly affixed in such place or places open to the workmen, and in such position that it may be easily seen, and read, and copied by any workman affected thereby. Such election shall also be forthwith notified by the employer to the Registrar of Friendly Societies. When once an election has been made under this provision it shall not be revocable without the consent in writing of the workmen affected thereby and with the approval of the said Registrar."

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL hoped his right hon. Friend would not put the House to the trouble of dividing on his proposal after an explanation which he hoped would be sufficient. So far as the substance of the Amendment was concerned, enabling masters and men by agreement to come under the terms of the Act, there was no difficulty about it. Employers could do this at once. No objection could be raised; if workmen thought it would be advantageous to them there would be no legal objection to the parties agreeing for the purpose. Therefore, so far as the substance of the matter was concerned, and if employer and workmen agreed, as was contemplated by his right hon. Friend's Amendment, such a contract might be signed and carried out. Then the Amendment went on to impose restrictions which would not be in the interest of the parties, putting difficulties in the way of making other arrangements which both sides might consider desirable. Although it was, of course, desirable that employers and workmen should be induced to agree upon the terms in the Bill, this proviso was not required for the purpose, and the restrictions would be harmful to the object in view.

Sir A. FORWOOD, after the explanation, desired to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendments made: In Sub-section (2), after the word "applies," to insert the words "and includes a light railway made under the Light Railways Act 1896." To leave out the words "that Act, and include light railways made under the Light Railways Act, 1896," and to insert the words "the said Acts of 1873 and 1896."—(*Sir Matthew White Ridley.*)

*Mr. J. A. PEASE (Northumberland, Tyneside) moved, in Sub-section (2), after the words "mechanical power," to insert the words,—

"and every shipbuilding yard, whether or not such shipbuilding yard is one wherein or within the close or curtilage or precincts of which steam, water, or other mechanical power is used, and vessels under construction or repair, and any other employment in which iron or steel plates, bars, or girders are fixed or riveted."

This Amendment was one which in discussion on Committee stage the Government undertook to consider. It was not outside the principle of the Bill, it was not an extension to other industries, but it would enable all the men engaged upon work connected with a shipbuilding yard to be brought under the provisions of the Bill. The Amendment included those workmen who, owing to a technical definition in the Factory Act of 1878, would be excluded, but who worked in an industry which it was proposed should be covered by the provisions of the Bill. At the present moment, owing to a definition in the Factory Acts, any man engaged in a shipyard in which there was no mechanical power employed would be excluded, and his object was that all those who were engaged in the selected industries which the Government had brought within the scope of the Bill, wheresoever they might work, might be included. As the Bill stood, in the case of any vessel which was launched or came into a waterway to be repaired, all the workmen who were taken out of the yard and placed in the vessel would no longer come under the provisions of the Bill; and, again, any men who were moved from the yard to follow their employment in riveting or plating on land outside a yard which was defined as a factory would similarly be exempted. This question affected an enormous number of men. The Bill affected thousands of men. There were 108 shipyards in the country. In 1891, when the tonnage was not nearly what it was now, the shipwrights numbered 62,717, and to-day we were building at the rate of 1,400,000 tons a year, or 80 per cent. of the tonnage of the world. The men in the Boilermakers and Iron Shipbuilders' Association, mainly platers and riveters, numbered 41,000. The unskilled labourers and apprentices engaged in the shipyards numbered 45,400. Besides these classes there were thousands of joiners, riggers, framers, and engineers. Many of these would be exempted more than half their time if the Amendment was rejected. The different classes of labour employed in and about a ship would be one day apparently under the Bill, and the next day they would be excluded, because they happened to be working where there was no machinery or in a water-way. How easy it would be for an employer to escape the liabilities of this Bill! He had only to concentrate his machinery in one yard, have a roadway separating the place where the machinery was situated from that where the ship was being built, and he could evade the Bill. Most riveting was done by hand. It was quite easy for an employer to purchase his material ready to be placed on the vessel, and as soon as the man crossed the road from having bored the plates with machinery and went to rivet the plates on the hull he would no longer be within the Bill. A vessel's hull might be constructed, and the frame then launched, or a vessel requiring reconstruction or repair might be brought into a dry dock, and the men employed in the work would never come under the Bill at all. Again, in many cognate industries, such as in boiler work, where exactly the same kind of work was performed, in bridge-work, gasometers, caissons, and pontoons, the same individual was engaged. He had to follow his employment from works in which machinery was situated; he left a less hazardous employment where he could obtain compensation, and went to a more hazardous situation, where he would receive no compensation. The moment he was sent out to erect a gasometer in a gas works he was no longer compensated. Take as an illustration the man who injured his finger when temporarily riveting a gasometer plate in a yard would receive compensation, the man who smashed his hand in permanently fixing the plate when erecting the gasometer in the gasworks would receive nothing. If a man was engaged in building a caisson in order to support a bridge to span a river, whilst preparing the work where there was machinery he was compensated, but the moment he had to undertake his difficult and hazardous calling in connection with the permanent erection of the caisson to support the bridge he no longer received compensation in the case of an accident. The Bill aimed at including the most hazardous occupations, but the most hazardous portions of the platers' work, conducted often outside yards where there was mechanical power, prevented compensation being paid. The labourers were divided into two classes: "helpers," and "general labourers." The former numbered 12,000, and being on piece work they were often driven hard by the platers, and every year had to carry heavier materials, thus their work tended to become more dangerous. The number of accidents met with by these men averaged 15·81 per cent. a year. The labourers on a railway line, included in the Bill, only ·77 met with accidents; therefore, these labourers had an occupation 16 times more hazardous than those on railways. In the Boiler and Iron Shipbuilders' Association 80 were on the funds after having received two years' sick pay, the average amount of sick pay being £24,700 per year. Three per cent. of these men were on sick pay; this percentage was greater than almost any other class of labour, greater than even ironfounders, who had to manipulate hot metal. The work of riggers obviously was not only hazardous but the nature of the injury was most serious. The number of days each rigger was off work averaged 42, as against 9·8 in ironworks, where hot metal was worked, and 24 in the building trades. The attitude of the Government, if they resisted this Amendment, would not only be illogical and unjust, but inexpedient, for the same man would be treated differently meeting with the same accident but in different places. Such an injustice would be a fruitful source of friction and litigation between employers and employed. Some employer might even arrange their yards and apportion their work with an eye to evade liability. He believed that although the Colonial Secretary had said in 1892:—

> "The recognition of the universality of the right to compensation would be impossible, as well as unjust, to throw the burden invariably and exclusively upon the employer."

Yet the employer would sooner this injustice were done him than that he should not know what his liability was as between his employés. He appealed to the Government to accept the Amendment, as it in no sense was an extension of the principle, but would be only a mere act of justice to the men engaged in the shipbuilding industry.

*Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY said the hon. Gentleman opposite had shown to the House, what they all probably knew, that there were, outside the actual operations of a shipbuilding yard, which was included in the Factory Acts, men engaged in almost identically the same work who were not technically at that moment factory hands, but who were just as liable to accident as some of those who would come under the protection of the Bill. He admitted all that, but, at the same time, he was not prepared to admit that he was either illogical or unjust if he declined to accept the Amendment. They had taken their stand upon the definition of these industries as laid down in the well-known Factory Acts, and if they were to begin, either in the direction of shipbuilding yards or other kinds of factories, to take individual and particular instances where, by the custom of the trade, similar work was done outside those factories, they would land themselves in endless discussions and be opening out a field which would surprise some of those who at the present moment had not found themselves included in the provisions of the Bill. He was quite ready to admit a very great deal of what his hon. Friend opposite said, and it might be illogical to refuse to compensate those whose case he had brought forward. But, for his own part, he thought the most logical, as well as the most just, position was to say that they had taken a wide range in that they had included all those industries which were defined by the Factory Acts to be factories, and that that was a limit to which they ought to adhere. He must, therefore, decline to accept the Amendment.

*Mr. J. WILSON (Lanark, Govan) wished to say he represented a constituency who were largely engaged in shipbuilding and engineering, and thought his hon. Friend the Member for Tyneside, had put his case very fairly before the Committee. There was no doubt whatever that the men who were working in these engineering shops and shipbuilding yards and who were called upon to go outside—perhaps into a dry dock or into mid stream—for the purpose of completing their work of fitting out a vessel should be within the purview of the Bill. An accident which took place on the Clyde some time ago would illustrate the hardship which would be inflicted upon these men if the Amendment were not accepted. On that occasion a vessel was launched on which were a number of men who had been engaged in the yard in her construction and who were required to be on board for the purpose of completing her. The vessel capsized, and yet the dependants of these men, who were huried into eternity, would not have received the benefits of the Bill. [*Laughter.*] He hoped the Government would take this matter into their serious consideration, and see whether they could not embrace within the purview of the Bill those workmen who were required to go outside their shops or yards to complete the work upon which they were engaged.

Colonel DENNY, speaking as a shipbuilder, said he agreed with his hon. Friend who moved the Amendment. He knew it was very difficult for the Government to deal with this matter without bringing in other cases, but he should be prepared to sacrifice a great deal before he would consent to do what would be a manifest injustice. In shipbuilding work it was not possible to differentiate between the men who were engaged inside the yard or shop and those engaged outside, because they were identically the same men and engaged on identically the same work. ["Hear, hear!"] Yet, according to the definition laid down by the Home Secretary, the men engaged outside the yard would not come within the operations of the Bill. He did not believe that any shipbuilder would wish to differentiate between the men in this way. ["Hear, hear!"] He knew it was not advisable to delay the progress of the Bill, but there was another place where this Amendment might be inserted, so as to prevent an invidious distinction being drawn between the same men when working inside the yard and when doing the same kind of work for the same employer outside the yard.

Mr. MORTON expressed disappointment at the action of the Government in refusing this Amendment. The late Home Secretary was, he believed, the first Minister to include Government employés in a Bill of this kind, and he was glad that the present Home Secretary had followed his right hon Friend's example. If an Amendment similar to this were not accepted by the Government, a large part of the advantage resulting from the inclusion of Government employés within the scope of the Bill would be lost. There was an enormous quantity of most dangerous dockyard work done in vessels afloat, while there were diving operations in connection with vessels in the process of being constructed or mended. These cases would be excluded under the terms of the Bill unless this Amendment was accepted; and he hoped that in another place, if not now, the Government might see their way to give effect to the Amendment.

Mr. G. W. WOLFF (Belfast, E.) agreed with his hon. Friend the Member for

Kilmarnock Burghs that there was absolutely no reason why men should be compensated for an accident inside a work and not compensated for an accident outside the same work. Speaking, he believed, for all the shipbuilders in the House, they were entirely of the same opinion. [*Opposition cheers.*] Was a man employed in a shipbuilding yard outside the regular yard in a different position with regard to the Bill than the sailor or agricultural labourer? Was it possible to include in the Bill shipbuilding hands outside the yards without including all those trades now left out? He believed that whatever trades were left out of the Bill now must be included before another year passed; and this was the reason why he could not vote for the Amendment. But in justice and logic there was no reason why a man should be compensated for an accident inside a work while another man belong- to the same yard should not be compensated for an accident in connection with work outside. He should like to have a pledge from the Government that they would amend the Bill in another place. [*Cries of* "Now!"]

MR. W. ALLAN (Gateshead) said that the plea of the Home Secretary was illogical. The definition of "factory" in the Bill included "any dock," and a man, therefore, working in a dock was to be compensated. Suppose some men in a shipyard were sent to work in a dock to repair a vessel. They did the same kind of work as they did in a shipyard. Were these men to be exempted from the operations of the Bill when the men working in the yard were to come within its operation?

MR. BURNS remarked that not only representatives of the workmen, but generous-hearted employers of labour who knew the technical illogicality of this Bill had offered to come within the purview of the Bill if Government would only consent. If, therefore, the Amendment were resisted in the House of Lords—and he could conceive Lord Londonderry resisting it if he were a shipbuilder—the Government could put up their man and tell him that the Amendment was pressed and forced upon them not alone in the interest of labour, but also in the interest of the just and equitable working of a Bill which had for its object not only the compensation of the workmen, but—where contracting-out schemes prevailed—the harmonious carrying out of those schemes. It was most creditable to some of the largest shipbuilders that they insisted on the Government accepting an Amendment whose rejection would cause many employers, and certainly all workmen, to regret it, and he hoped the House of Lords would allow it to pass in order to make the Bill as humane, as consistent, and as logical as it might be. It would be still better if the Government would save them the trouble of running the gauntlet of the House of Lords, where so many innocents had been killed. [*Laughter* and "Hear, hear!"]

MR. PARKER SMITH hoped the Government would favourably consider the Amendment. As connected with one of the largest shipbuilding establishments in the country, it seemed to him entirely impossible to draw any line between ships in course of construction, whether in the yard or afloat outside. One half of the work was done on shore; then the vessel was launched, and exactly the same kind of work continued to be done on her, either lying in the dock or in the fairway of the river, and the same men were engaged in doing the same kind of work. How could they reasonably draw the line and say that in case of an accident before launching, or while the ship was lying in a dock which happened to be within the yard, the case came under the Bill, but that if the accident happened outside the yard while the ship was lying in the river, then there was no liability at all? ["Hear, hear!"] It was rather curious to note the way in which a ship had been considered, or rather had not been considered. It seemed to come somewhat under the head of an engineering work, no doubt; but he thought ships were sufficiently important to be treated by themselves, and he hoped the Government might devise some principle similar to what they had adopted in the case of buildings. They had taken a line including buildings over a certain size; and he thought they might draw the line so as to include all ships in the course of construction if over a certain size. ["Hear, hear!"]

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY said it was impossible for the

Government to ignore the fact that four Members, personally concerned in the shipbuilding interest, had successively risen to express their strong desire that the Amendment should be accepted. ["Hear, hear!"] Of course, they had never denied, on the contrary, they had admitted over and over again, that it was difficult to justify the distinction drawn in the Bill between one industry and another. But if that were to be a conclusive argument, the Bill ought to have been rejected long ago. The Government had felt that some line must be drawn, and the inevitable effect of that was that cases would fall on either side of the line which it was very difficult to distinguish on principle. ["Hear, hear?"] But there did seem to be this peculiarity in the present case—a peculiarity which perhaps could be matched in other instances, but which hardly existed to the same degree—namely, that it was the same individual occupied on precisely the same work, under the same master, and on the same piece of goods, who on one day or week came under the Bill and the next day or week did not come under the Bill. He admitted that was a peculiarity which deserved careful consideration. ["Hear, hear!"] He thought, however, that they would be ill-advised if they attempted to deal with the difficulty now; and although he was giving no specific promise as to what they might be able to do on another occasion in another place, if the House would so far repose confidence in the Government as to trust them, at all events with a desire to do their best in the matter, perhaps the subject might now be left in their hands. He hoped that after this indication of the views, or of the provisional views of the Government, the hon. Member opposite would be prepared to withdraw his Amendment. ["Hear, hear!"]

MR. VICARY GIBBS (Herts, St. Albans) asked if Government intended to do their best to include not only shipbuilding yards mentioned in the first part of the Amendment, but other employments mentioned in the second part, in which iron and steel plates and girders were used. If the latter were to be included, there was no reason why all sorts of trades should not also come in.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY said, of course it must be distinctly understood that no Amendment which the Government would willingly accept would greatly extend the lines of the Bill as already laid down. The whole of the argument for the Amendment went on the hypothesis that there were certain marks differentiating this case from other cases. If, on examination, that appeared to be the case, and that those marks could be made the basis of a statutory distinction in the Bill, then it was a point with which the Government might deal. But they did not intend to give any great extension to the general scope of the Measure as already laid down.

*MR. J. A. PEASE said that after the pledge of the right hon. Gentleman which he understood to be that the object of the Amendment would receive favourable consideration in another place by the Government, he would ask leave on that understanding to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. HARRY SAMUEL (Tower Hamlets, Limehouse) moved in Subsection (2), after the words "or other mechanical power," to insert the words—

> "Notwithstanding anything in this Act to the contrary, the word 'dock,' for the purpose of this Act, shall be held to include any place where ships are loaded or unloaded."

He said that many men were engaged in loading and unloading vessels in other places than docks, wharves, and quays—in streams, for instance, where the vessel was not stationary, and the machinery used was not so applicable to the work. He hoped the Government would extend the protection of the Bill to these men. He would accept any modification which the Government desired.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL said that this Amendment was an object-lesson of the difficulties caused by attempting to extend the Bill in any direction. The principle of the Amendment was that wherever a ship was loaded or unloaded the workmen were to be brought under the Bill. The Government could not accept such a wide Amendment, and he feared that it would be impossible to meet the hon. Member half way.

Mr. BUXTON said that all the arguments which the First Lord of the Treasury had admitted with respect to the last Amendment practically applied to this also. When a ship was attached to the quay the men engaged in unloading her were to come under the Bill, when the ship was moored in mid-stream they were not—though the same men, the same work, and the same employer were concerned in both cases. The only reason why they were not included in the Act of 1895 was that there was no time just before the General Election when by general assent the Bill was agreed to. He hoped that the Government, having met very fairly the last Amendment, would see their way to deal with this Amendment which was on all fours with the former.

Mr. J. SAMUEL said the ships in deep water berths were moved, loaded and unloaded by the same men who should come under the Bill—that was to say the men employed on the wharves. These men from the wharves were taken away to unload these ships, and while doing so, under the same employers, they would not come under the provisions of this Bill. He hoped that the Government would see their way to include them.

*Sir J. FERGUSSON said that it was pointed out in the Grand Committee on which he sat that it would be impossible to draw the line between a ship in mid-stream and elsewhere.

Mr. H. SAMUEL asked leave to withdraw the Amendment. [*Cries of* "No, no!"]

Question put, "That those words be there inserted."

The House divided:—Ayes, 105; Noes, 177.—(Division List, No. 287.)

Amendments made: Sub-section (2) after the word "alteration," insert the words "or repair." Leave out the word "on," and insert the words "for the construction, alteration, or repair of." Leave out the words "for the purpose of the construction or alteration thereof" and after the words "is used" to insert—

"'Undertakers' in the case of a railway means the railway company; in the case of a factory, quarry, or laundry means the occupier thereof within the meaning of the Factory and Workshop Acts, 1878 to 1895; in the case of a mine means the owner thereof within the meaning of The Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1887, or the Metalliferous Mines Regulation Act, 1872, as the case may be; and in the case of an engineering work means the person undertaking the construction, alteration, or repair; and in the case of a building means the persons undertaking the construction, alteration, or repair."

After the word "unincorporate," insert the words "and the legal personal representative of a deceased employer."

At the end of Sub-section (2) to add:

"Any reference to a workman who has been injured shall, where the workman is dead, include a reference to his legal personal representative or to his dependants, or other person to whom compensation is payable."—*(Sir Matthew White Ridley.)*

*Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY moved, at the end of the clause, to insert the words,—

"'Dependants' means—(*a*) In England and Ireland, such members of the workman's family specified in the Fatal Accidents Act 1846 as were wholly or in part dependant upon the earnings of the workman at the time of, or immediately prior to, his death; and (*b*) in Scotland, such of the persons entitled according to the law of Scotland to sue the employer for damages or solatium in respect of the death of the workman as were wholly or in part dependant upon the earnings of the workman at the time of, or immediately prior to, his death."

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. E. H. PICKERSGILL (Bethnal Green, S.W.) said that he understood this would be the proper time to move an Amendment which stood in his name, namely:—Leave out the words "members of the workman's family specified in the Fatal Accidents Act, 1846," and insert

"persons, being the wife, husband, parent, grandparent, stepfather, stepmother, child, grandchild, stepson, stepdaughter, brother, or sister of the workman."

The hon. Member said that the practical effect of the Amendment was to include a brother or sister among the dependants for whom the Bill made provision. In many cases where the father or mother had been removed by death the brother or sister became the bread-winner for whole family. Cases of that kind must have the sympathy of the House because they appealed to the best feelings of our nature. ["Hear, hear."] The only objection urged against his Amendment in Committee was that the Government had in their definition followed Lord Campbell's Act. But that was passed more than 50 years ago, and he saw no reason why the House should regard that as a binding precedent. It was only in cases where the deceased workman had been the bread winner of brothers and sisters that the Act would apply. The sentiments of the community would be outraged if in cases of that kind where a workman was killed the brothers or sisters dependent upon him were left entirely without maintenance.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL said the point of the hon. and learned Member's Amendment was to include both "brother and sister." They had already expressed their view that they thought they had gone far enough, having regard to the interests concerned, and he was afraid they must adhere to that decision.

Amendment negatived.

MR. TOMLINSON moved, after the words last inserted, to add,—

"'Total incapacity' means loss of sight, or of both legs or of both arms, or any other injury of such a nature as to permanently incapacitate the workman from earning wages at the kind of work on which he was employed;
"'Partial incapacity' means loss of one eye, one leg or arm or hand, or any other injury of such a nature as to permanently incapacitate the workman from earning full wages at the work on which he was employed."

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.) said that no difference was made in the scale of compensation between total and partial incapacity, and therefore no definition of the two forms of incapacity was required.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. MORTON moved, "That further proceeding, on consideration of the Bill, as amended, be now adjourned."

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY hoped the hon. Gentleman would not press his Motion. He confessed that the progress they had made that night had not been quite so rapid as he had hoped, and though he was quite sure on both sides of the House there was a great desire to further the Bill, the discussion had perhaps been in some cases more fitted to the Committee than the Report stage of the Bill. He thought everybody would feel that it would be very inconvenient that the Debate should go over Monday. They still had a great deal of work to do, and he would earnestly beg the House not to waste a moment's time. ["Hear, hear!"]

Mr. E. H. Pickersgill.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause 6,—

APPLICATION TO WORKMEN IN EMPLOYMENT OF CROWN.

(1.) This Act shall not apply to persons in the naval or military service of the Crown, but otherwise shall apply to any employment by or under the Crown to which this Act would apply if the employer were a private person.

(2.) The Treasury may, by warrant laid before Parliament, modify for the purposes of this Act their warrant made under section one of the Superannuation Act 1887.

MR. MORTON (on behalf of Mr. KEARLEY) moved, in Sub-section (1), to leave out the word "not," with the object of making the Act apply to persons in the Naval or Military service of the Crown. It would be impossible, of course, to bring within the scope of the Bill private soldiers killed in warfare, because getting killed was a necessary part of their employment. Therefore there was a second Amendment in the name of his hon. Friend to exclude men employed on active service. But there was a large number of cases of employments under the Crown which ought to be brought within the scope of the Bill.

MR. PARKER SMITH rose to order. He asked whether it was in order for the hon. Member, who was not a Minister of the Crown, to move an Amendment which would lead to increased charges on the Treasury. ["Hear, hear!"]

*MR. SPEAKER: I think that objection is valid. The Amendment would certainly increase the charges on the Treasury, and therefore cannot be moved at this stage of the Bill.

Clause 7,—

PROVISION AS TO EXISTING CONTRACTS.

Any contract existing at the commencement of this Act, whereby a workman relinquishes any right to compensation from the employer for personal injury arising out of and in the course of his employment, shall not, for the purposes of this Act, be deemed to continue after the time at which the workman's contract of service would determine if notice of the determination thereof were given at the commencement of this Act.

MR. HARRY FOSTER (Suffolk, Lowestoft) moved to insert at the beginning of the clause, "subject to the provisions of Section 1, Sub-section (4), of this Act."

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL said the Amendment was quite unnecessary.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

And, it being Midnight, further proceeding on Consideration, as amended, stood adjourned.

Bill, as amended, to be further considered upon Monday next.

LAND TRANSFER [CONSOLIDATED FUND].

Resolution reported,—

"That it is expedient to authorise the payment, out of the Consolidated Fund, of any deficiency in the Insurance Fund which may be established under any Act of the present Session to establish a Real Representative and to amend the Land Transfer Act 1875."

Resolution agreed to.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES (METRIC SYSTEM) BILL.

Read the Third time, and passed.

ISLE OF MAN (CHURCH BUILDING ACTS) BILL [H.L.].

Adjourned Debate on Second Reading [5th July] further adjourned till Monday next.

FISHERIES ACTS AMENDMENT BILL [H.L.].

Second Reading deferred till Monday next.

METROPOLITAN WATER COMPANIES BILL.

Committee deferred till Monday next.

LAW OF EVIDENCE (CRIMINAL CASES) BILL.

Committee deferred till Tuesday next.

BICYCLES (IRELAND) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Monday next.

BURIAL GROUNDS LOANS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Adjourned Debate on Second Reading [11th May] further adjourned till Monday next.

DANGEROUS PERFORMANCES BILL.

Committee deferred till Tuesday next.

PUBLIC HEALTH (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Consideration, as amended (by the Standing Committee), deferred till Monday next.

FOREIGN PRISON-MADE GOODS BILL.

Committee deferred till Monday next.

POOR LAW BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Monday next.

SCHOOL BOARDS' EXPENSES BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Monday next.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Committee deferred till Monday next.

CONGESTED DISTRICTS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Consideration, as amended, deferred till Monday next.

PLUMBERS' REGISTRATION BILL.

Further proceeding, on consideration as amended (by the Standing Committee) deferred till Wednesday next.

LOCOMOTIVES ON HIGHWAYS BILL.

Consideration, as amended (by the Standing Committee), deferred till Tomorrow.

EDUCATIONAL ENDOWMENTS (IRELAND) ACT (1885) AMENDMENT BILL.

Committee deferred till Monday next.

ARCHDEACONRY OF LONDON (ADDITIONAL ENDOWMENTS) BILL.

Considered in Committee. Clause 1:

Committee report Progress; to sit again upon Monday next.

STEAM ENGINES AND BOILERS (PERSONS IN CHARGE) BILL.

Adjourned Debate on Motion for Committal to Standing Committee on Trade, Etc. [17th February] further adjourned till Monday next.

COTTAGE HOMES BILL.

On the Order for the Second Reading of this Bill,

MR. D. CRILLY (Mayo, N.) objected.

MR. JOHN HUTTON (Yorkshire, Richmond) appealed to the hon. Member to withdraw his objection.

*MR. J. A. PEASE supported the appeal on the ground that the Bill was one to promote the interests of the deserving poor, which was an object which should commend itself to the hon. Member.

DR. TANNER (Cork, Mid) said that he should not object to the Bill, and he hoped that the same consideration would be shown to Irish Bills.

THE SECRETARY TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. T. W. RUSSELL, Tyrone, S.) said that it was a very important Bill, raising very important issues, and as it created a fresh Imperial charge, it must be discussed at some other time than after midnight.

MR. J. HUTTON moved that the Order be discharged, and the Bill withdrawn.

Order for Second Reading read, and discharged; Bill withdrawn.

PRISONERS' PERSONAL CORRECTION PROHIBITION BILL.

On the order for the Second Reading of this Bill,

MR. J. A. PEASE said that, in view of the promises of the Home Secretary that the prison rules with respect to flogging should be amended, he moved that the Order be discharged and the Bill withdrawn.

Motion agreed to.

Order for Second Reading read, and discharged; Bill withdrawn.

TITHE REDEMPTION BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Monday next.

PARISH COUNCILS (SCOTLAND) (CASUAL VACANCIES) BILL.

Read a Second time, and committed for Monday next.

WORKING MEN'S DWELLINGS BILL [H.L.].

Second Reading deferred till Monday next.

INCLOSURE ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Monday next.

POLICE PENSIONS AND SERVICE BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Monday next.

POLICE APPOINTMENT AND PROMOTION BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Monday next.

LICENSING (SCOTLAND) ACTS AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading deferred till Tomorrow.

JURORS' EXPENSES BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Thursday next.

RAILWAY RETURN TICKETS BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Tomorrow.

PARISH REGISTERS BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Tomorrow.

CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD (IRELAND) (COMPULSORY PURCHASE POWERS) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Monday next.

LICENSING EXEMPTION (HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Tomorrow.

House Adjourned at a Quarter after Twelve o'Clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Friday, 9th July 1897.

PRIVATE BUSINESS.

LOCHEARNHEAD, ST. FILLANS, AND COMRIE RAILWAY BILL.

The Earl of MORLEY (Chairman of Committees) moved:—

> "That the order made on the 23rd day of March last, 'That no Private Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a second time later than the third day on which the House shall sit after the recess at Whitsuntide as extended by the order of the 18th day of June last,' be dispensed with, and that the Bill be read 2a."

Motion agreed to. Read accordingly a Second time.

INDIAN JUDICATURE.

*Lord STANLEY of ALDERLEY asked Her Majesty's Government if they would appoint a Mussulman and a Hindu lawyer to act as assessors in Indian cases before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, and if they would confer knighthood on the High Court Judges on their appointment, as was the practice with Judges of the Supreme Court of Calcutta? He said that when he brought before the House last year the complaints of both Hindus and Mussulmans with respect to decisions of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, the Under Secretary for India had taken no notice of his statements, but had confined himself to a flat contradiction. The noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack had also blamed him for impugning a decision of the Privy Council, and said that his course ought to have been to ask Her Majesty's Government to alter the law as laid down by the Privy Council. But how was the alteration to be asked for unless a case were made out, and that could hardly be done without implying that the Privy Council decision was unsatisfactory. Under these circumstances he had written an article in *The Asiatic Quarterly Review* of January last, advocating the appointment of a Hindu and a Mussulman lawyer to act as assessors in Indian cases; a course for which there were precedents in the Privy Council in ecclesiastical cases, and in the House of Lords in Admiralty cases. He had learned since this article was published that the India Office would reply that there were no persons in India fit to be assessors. Now Mr. Justice Amir Aly was perfectly fit to be an assessor for Mussulman cases, and whenever he has finished his time for being entitled to half his pension as a High Court Judge, he would be ready to come to this country. If he is fit to be a High Court Judge, it cannot be said that he is not fit to be an assessor to the Judicial Committee. With regard to a Hindu assessor, Mr. Bhattacharya, the author of a commentary on Hindu law, is stated to be in other ways, such as knowledge of Sanskrit, perfectly fit to be a Hindu assessor. Other Hindu names had been given him, but as they do not equal Mr. Bhattacharya in merit, it is unnecessary to refer to them. My Hindu correspondent very properly observes that:—

> "The difficulty of finding assessors for the Privy Council is, no doubt, great. But if the appointments were to be made, the difficulty will no longer be felt, for persons will qualify themselves. At the present time the number is extremely few. Another difficulty is the unknown conditions of the appointment. Persons may be fit but not willing to cross the seas, or reside in England. The question of remuneration and the position to be assigned to assessors is another great factor. I take it that the assessor must be familiar with the English language, and must have mastery over the Hindu and Mussulman law in the original, not the English Acts, but Arabic and Sanskrit treatises on the subject."

This opinion seems very reasonable, and what the writer says would dispose of the objection, even if well founded, of there being no person fit. I would suggest that, if Her Majesty's Government were willing to entertain the proposal favourably, both the position and remuneration required would be provided for without any trouble by appointing two such assessors to be members of the Council of the Secretary of State for India. As the noble Earl the Under Secretary of State for India had not accepted his statements with regard to a Privy Council decision, last year, perhaps he would be pleased to hear a Resolution which had been passed in Bengal:—

> "That the heartfelt thanks of this association be conveyed to Lord Stanley of Alderley for having, in the House of Lords, given expression to the views and feelings of the Mussulman community in India with regard to the recent decision of the Privy Council on the question of Vakf, which the Mussulmans consider as inconsistent with the provisions of their law and religion, and as tending to disturb many of their long-cherished social, charitable, and religious institutions, and to render insecure the existing titles to large properties throughout India."

He would add that he had asked a legal gentleman to revise an article in *The Asiatic Quarterly*, so as to avoid, if possible, all expressions displeasing to the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack. Besides those points in Privy Council decisions, which he mentioned as being unsatisfactory, a competent person in the India Office had told him that the Privy Council Judges could not understand what an impartible estate was. Perhaps there was more unwillingness than inability. To understand this, it was not necessary to read Mr. Bhattachariya's book; a much more readable description and explanation of its origin is to be found in the "Cité Antique" of M. Fustel de Coutanges, who describes the primitive institutions of the Greeks and the Romans, and shows how they were identical with those of the Hindus, all these laws and institutions having been derived from principles common to those three nations. The Judicial Committee as regards Indian cases requires strengthening by means of the English Judges it receives from India, and the Indian Administration has for many years been endeavouring to diminish the dignity of the Judicature. Dr. Field, an ex-Judge of the High Court of Calcutta, in an article named "Government and the Calcutta High Court," in the April number of *The Asiatic Quarterly Review*, dates this policy from 35 years ago. He complains of the withholding the dignity of knighthood from the Judges of the High Court presiding over the administration of justice to a population of seventy millions; whilst the Judges of the old Supreme Court were knighted, though the limits of its ordinary jurisdiction extended no further than the town of Calcutta. He points out that a knighthood conferred after some years of service, or upon retirement, suggests considerations inconsistent with a proper conception of judicial independence. Then the precedence of the Calcutta Judges was taken away; Dr. Field asks,—

Lord Stanley of Alderley.

> "on what grounds that did not exist when the High Courts were first established, at which time such a change as part of the general scheme would have been wholly invidious."

The next step in the Policy of lowering the *status* of the High Court Judges was to reduce their salaries. The position of a Calcutta Judge once worth more than £5,000 a year, is now worth little more than half that sum. The last step recently taken to diminish the worth of these appointments, and further lower the *status* of the Court, is to extend the period of actual service qualifying for full pension from 11½ to 13½ years. Dr. Field then quotes from an address presented last September to the retiring Chief Justice by representatives of the European and Indian communities:—

> "It is with regret that we have noticed that in India, where a proportion of the Judges of the highest courts in the land are drawn from the Bar of England, the emoluments and conditions of service have been so altered as to make it increasingly difficult to obtain for the High Courts the services of men who it is most desirable on all grounds should be attracted to them, while at the same time the inducements to Indian civilians and others, who have sought a career in this country, to aspire to the honour and dignity of a seat on the Bench of the High Courts, have suffered in a manner which we cannot believe to be for the benefit of the country; and while we are fully alive to economy in all Departments of the State, we yet hold that it is a mistaken policy to apply economy to the High Courts, when it is exercised at the risk of sacrificing their efficiency."

The retiring Chief Justice, whilst agreeing with the views of the address, stated that a very large number of the more experienced of the District Judges retired upon the promulgation of the new rules. The conditions of life in India are improved for the Civil Service by the Hill Stations; but the Judges of the Calcutta Court do not share in these advantages, as they remain in the plains throughout the hot weather. Besides the complaints made by Dr. Field, it may be observed that for some time some Lieutenant Governors of Bengal and other Civil servants under them have treated the High Courts and the magistracy with less than fitting respect. Much satisfaction was therefore caused by a report that the late Government thought of sending their Lord Chancellor as Viceroy to India, and it was hoped that this would secure respect for the dignity of the judicial body. With regard to Indians having seats on the Council of the Secretary of State, besides other advantages, it would be useful to the Secretary of State and to others to have responsible councillors to consult. I may give as an instance, more than 20 years ago a C. D. Blue-book was issued, and I was in doubt how to vote should it have come to a vote; and I consulted the late Cardinal Manning. He asked me for the Blue-book, which I gave him, but I failed to obtain an opinion from him. I then consulted the agent of one of the dispossessed Princes of India, and after reflection he said, that as these women were doing wrong, they had no right; and others had no right to complain on their behalf of the regulations the Government might make with respect to them.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR (Lord HALSBURY) said that although the noble Lord's Motion was in the form of one question it comprehended two different subjects. He only proposed to say something in respect of the first part of the question. The noble Lord expressed a hope that he should have forgotten what he said last year. He was very glad to find that the noble Lord had forgotten what he said—[*laughter*]—because his objection to the noble Lord then was that he proceeded to discuss at considerable length, and with very scant courtesy towards the learned Judges who had decided it, the question that had been decided by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. That night he was bound to admit the noble Lord had entirely avoided any objection of that sort, and, but for his preamble, he should simply have said in reply to him that he was not able to advise Her Majesty's Government to appoint the assessors whom he suggested, even if it were not a sufficient answer to say that they had no power to do it. He did not agree that there had been any real dissatisfaction with the decision to which the noble Lord referred. Where there were two sides to a question he presumed the side against whom the decision had been recorded would be dissatisfied with it, and if they were to proceed to alter the law in every case where there would be any dissatisfaction at the decision arrived at there would be a constant oscillation between one law and another. Although there was a little technicality in it, perhaps their Lordships would allow him to explain what the decision was. The case came before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in which the validity of a certain settlement was in question. There was in the Mahommedan law, as there was in the English law, an objection against perpetuity—that was to say, the right of one person to stretch his arm at great length beyond the grave and determine what should be the destination of property for a very long period. The particular settlement in question was one in which it was sought to get out of the provision against perpetuity in the Mahommedan law by having, at the end of it, a bequest in favour of the poor, because, again, the Mahommedan law, as the English law, recognised the existence of a charitable trust. The only question of Debate was the validity of this particular instrument. The people who had devised this ingenious contrivance had made a settlement which was practically in perpetuity. It was for the family or friends—anybody who might claim relationship by affinity or consanguinity with the settlor, and in the event of these all being exhausted, then, "for the benefit of the poor." The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council decided that that was a mere colourable addition, that the true character of the instrument was to establish a perpetuity and that the addition that in the event of a failure of all these persons it should then be a charitable trust, was only a colourable evading of the effect of the law. The noble Lord would observe, therefore, that the effect of the decision was simply that that particular instrument, that that particular contrivance, was invalid. That was a decision affirming the decision of the High Court of Calcutta, and that decision was based on the previous decision of the native courts in which the same conclusion had been arrived at. He need not point out that that was not a decision which affected to alter, or did alter, the Mahommedan law. He did not know whether the noble Lord suggested that, because there was dissatisfaction with the decision, there should be persons appointed who should instruct the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in Indian law. It appeared to him that that certainty assumed that they were unable to do what they had been doing now for many years to, he submitted, the great satisfaction of Her Majesty's Indian subjects, and he had never heard, until the noble Lord himself suggested it, that their decisions had been questioned upon any ground of their ignorance of the matter with which they were dealing. They were competent, he presumed, to construe the English language; and the documents from which its decisions were obtained, and upon the authority of which they rested, were English translations, and he need not say that it was the duty of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, a duty which he was quite certain they discharged, to acquaint themselves with what was the Mahommedan law, just as they acquainted themselves with decisions of other systems of law which it was their duty to administer. He thought it right to make this explanation, lest it should be supposed that the Judicial Committee had, in this particular case, gone out of their ordinary course. His general answer to the noble Lord must be that he did not think the Government were at all prepared to adopt a new system of administering justice in the Judicial Committee, there being, as he thought, no failure of justice in particular cases. The answer to the first part of the noble Lord's question was simply in the negative.

THE PRIME MINISTER (The Marquess of SALISBURY: As my noble and learned Friend has divided the question into two, perhaps I had better reply to the end of it. But I shall not deal with it in any more satisfactory way, because the only thing I can say is that it is not according to precedent to draw into discussion the use which Her Majesty may make of her prerogative of conferring

Lord Chancellor.

honour, and I should be sorry to set a bad example in that respect.

*LORD STANLEY OF ALDERLEY asked the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack what further proof of the dissatisfaction in India could be given besides those already given. As to a colour of establishing a perpetuity; perpetuity is of the essense of a Vakf, and Sir Barnes Peacock had laid down with regard to Hindu perpetuities:—

> "There is no rule in Hindu law which invalidates a conveyance or a gift *inter vivos* upon the ground of its creating a perpetuity. If it is contrary to policy to allow the Hindu law to prevail to its full extent, let that be modified by the Legislature, and not by the Judges."

CHURCH PATRONAGE TRANSFERS BILL.

On the Order for the Third Reading of this Bill,

THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY said that before the most rev. Prelate, the Archbishop of York, moved the Amendments of which he had given notice, he should like to say a word as to the Bill. It seemed to him not to be very intelligible, and it was worded in a very curious manner. The effect of the operative clause, as he read it, was that a transfer was to be void unless notice—

> "shall have been given to the diocesan registrar for four weeks before the completion of the said transfer."

"Four weeks before" was a very extraordinary expression, and he should have thought that the proper expression would have been "not less than four weeks before." Then came a still more singular thing. It was to be four weeks before the completion of the transfer, and, therefore, of course, at that time the transfer was not completed. The clause then went on to say that the transfer—

> "shall take effect for all purposes as from the date when a copy of the instrument of transfer be deposited in the Diocesan Registry."

Therefore, it seemed to him that the transfer was to take place before it was completed. That was only a drafting objection, but, at the same time, it seemed to him very desirable that the wording of the Bill, which, he conceived, was not likely to pass into law during the present Session, should be revised. Perhaps it was rather late to say so, but he must say that, for his part, he did not understand in the least what the object of the Bill was. A transfer, as the Bill was drafted, was to take effect at the date of the depositing of the notice, but there was no provision for anything to be done so far as he could see. If it were merely wished to have notice of a transfer having taken place it would have been enough, he should have thought, to have simply provided that when any transfer was made it should be immediately registered before the proper authority; but he supposed it was intended that there should be some mode or other of interfering or dealing with a transfer if there were any objection to it. Perhaps the most rev. Prelate could give the House some explanation of the object of the Bill.

THE ARCHBISHOP OF YORK said he did not quite apprehend the force of the noble Earl's objection to the Bill. It seemed to him quite sufficient to effect the purpose for which it was intended. There were constantly cases which he thought were very undesirable, that when a living became vacant the Bishop had not the least idea who was the patron of the living, because no man was bound to register the transfer of patronage from one to another. Both by the Select Committee of 1874 and the Royal Commission of 1878 a recommendation was made to the effect that a Bill of this kind should be passed. The Select Committee recommended—

> "that all sales of advowsons or next presentations be duly registered within a limited time in the Diocesan Registry of the diocese in which the living is situated, with the names of vendor and purchaser, and that no sale not so registered be valid in law."

This Bill was an attempt to carry into effect the recommendation. The Royal Commission also recommended that no sale or patronage should be voted unless effected by an instrument registered in the Diocesan Registry. This recommendation was met by the Bill. Speaking from nearly twenty years' experience of the Episcopate, he felt confident that the Bill, short as it was, would effect a very great improvement in the matter of the jobbery which took place with regard to advowsons. There was no intention to interfere with *bonâ fide* transfers of advowsons, but merely to hinder those corrupt proceedings which at present were beyond the possibility of detection, and which left matters on the vacancy of any living in great confusion. He did not mean to say the Bill would do all their Lordships would wish to see done in the matter of patronage. It did not do all he wished to see done, but the hopelessness of passing a more comprehensive Measure on the subject induced him to bring forward this very brief Measure to remedy a very urgent and frequent evil.

THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY said he had no objection whatever to the registration, it might be very useful in some way, though he did not exactly see how. All he wished to say was that if it were desired that the transfer should be registered the simplest mode would be to provide that the transfer when completed and made should be registered. It might also be provided that no presentation should take place until some days after the registration, so as to give ample time for any inquiries to be made. As it stood he must repeat that this was the most unintelligible and ill-worded Bill he ever remembered being brought into the House.

Bill read a Third time.

Clause 1,—

CONDITION OF TRANSFER OF CHURCH PATRONAGE.

1. After the *passing of this Act* an assignment or transfer of the right of patronage or presentation to any benefice or cure of souls shall be void, unless notice of the intended assignment or transfer, and of the name of the transferee, shall have been given to the diocesan registrar for *four weeks* before the completion of the said assignment or transfer, and until a copy of the deed of assignment or transfer shall have been deposited in the Diocesan Registry.

THE ARCHBISHOP OF YORK moved to insert after the word "souls," the words—

> "not being a transmission by death or by operation of law, or consequent upon a change of trustee."

He explained that the Amendment was intended to exempt from the operation of the Bill three cases in which its operation might be vexatious or injurious—namely, transmission by death, operation by law, or change of trustee. The exemptions were reasonable, and he was indebted to those noble and learned Lords who had suggested them to him.

Amendment agreed to.

THE ARCHBISHOP OF YORK moved to insert after the word "transfer," the words "so far as it relates to the said right of nomination or presentation." In pursuance of this Amendment it would not be necessary that the whole instrument should be registered, but only that portion of it which referred to the transfer of the patronage.

Amendment agreed to. Bill passed, and sent to the Commons.

METROPOLITAN AND OTHER POLICE COURTS BILL.

*LORD BELPER, in moving the Second Reading of this Bill, said that the Measure was intended to carry out an arrangement which was made by the late Government in the year 1895, and by which there would be a transfer of the expenses of the police courts, other than the salaries and superannuation allowances of the police magistrates, to the police fund. Hitherto, while the police stations had been supported by the police fund the police courts had been supported by Votes of Parliament. In many cases the buildings were under the same roof, and it had been found very inconvenient and confusing that there should be two controlling bodies. The property was to be transferred to the receiver of Metropolitan Police. It had been calculated that there would be an additional cost to the police fund by the transfer of about £6,600 a year, but some means had been sought by which the loss could be made up by the Treasury. For some years a demand had been made by the Receiver General for the expenses of the police employed at the Houses of Parliament to be paid by the Government. It had never been admitted by the Treasury that it was their duty to defray these expenses, which amounted to about £7,000, but it was now thought that their payment would be a fair *quid pro quo* for the throwing of the expenses of the police courts upon the police fund. There was no reference to that circumstance in the Bill, but the arrangement would be secured by a letter from the Treasury. There were some negotiations and discussion with regard to the financial aspect of the Bill in the other House of Parliament, but eventually the Measure passed without Amendment, so that it might be assumed that it was practically assented to by the local authorities.

Read 2ª (according to Order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Monday next.

POLICE PROPERTY BILL.

*LORD BELPER, in moving the Second Reading of this Bill, said that a short time ago the Controller and Auditor General called attention to the fact that there appeared on the account of the Receiver a certain fund which had been known as the Prisoners' Unclaimed Property Fund, and which was not subject to audit. Subsequently it was found that the Acts of Parliament which gave powers with regard to the property which was found on prisoners were not adequate for the purpose; that although they gave tolerably adequate powers with respect to sums under £15, and property in connection with which an actual charge was made, they gave no power under which the police could deal with larger sums or with property found on prisoners as to which no charge was made. Last year a Departmental Committee found that there were many cases not only in London but in the provinces, where property was found on prisoners which could not be dealt with under the existing law. He might mention a few of those cases.

Firstly, there was the case where a prisoner was acquitted; secondly, the case where a prisoner might have absconded after being bailed; and, thirdly, the case where the prosecution did not appear. There was also the not uncommon case where a prisoner was charged on a number of different indictments, but where he was only convicted on one or two. There was no legal process by which the property which had not been made the subject of charge could be disposed of. The Bill, therefore, proposed that in any cases where property had come into the possession of the police in connection with any criminal charge or under certain sections of certain Acts of Parliament, a metropolitan police magistrate within the metropolitan police district and a court of summary jurisdiction elsewhere might make an order for the delivery of the property to the person who appeared to the magistrate to be the owner. It was also provided that the Secretary of State should make rules for the disposal of the property that came into the possession of the police. The Bill dealt with other details, such as the disposal of perishable goods, and the money so received would be devoted in certain ways laid down in the Bill, and, finally, for the benefit of discharged prisoners. The Bill also provided for the audit of accounts, and, considering all the circumstances, he thought their Lordships would agree that the Bill should become law without further delay. He begged to move.

Bill read a Second time, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Monday next.

FINANCE BILL.

Read 2ª (according to Order); Committee negatived; and Bill to be Read 3ª on Monday next.

LUNACY BILL [H.L.].

The LORD CHANCELLOR moved the Second Reading of this Bill, which, he said, dealt with matters which had been the subject of considerable discussion. He particularly referred to the question of pensions and allowances to officers in various asylums; and, so far as their Lordships were concerned, it might be necessary to introduce some Amendments.

The Earl of KIMBERLEY said he had no intention of saying anything as to the various provisions of the Bill, but representations had been made to him from the authorities in the lunatic asylum of Norfolk, in which county he resided, and also from other counties, to the effect that the pensions proposed were not nearly sufficient. The proposal was to make the pensions the same as to Poor Law officers, but it was pointed out that the duties of those who had to do with patients were far more onerous than the duties discharged by Poor Law officers. [" Hear, hear! "] It not unfrequently happened that, from constant attendance on the patients, there was a tendency in the direction of the minds of the attendants to become affected, so that they had to retire at a comparatively early period. What was said was that the period of 60 years, as in the case of the Poor Law officials, was too high, and that the pensions were not sufficiently high. As regarded storekeepers, clerks, artisans, and workmen generally, this would not apply. It was suggested that the officials brought into immediate contact with the patients should be allowed to retire after 25 years, and at an age not less than 50 years, and that the scale of pensions should be higher. That view had been recognised in his county, and he believed some other counties had also adopted it, giving pensions considerably higher than proposed in the Bill. He thought the arguments in the direction he suggested were extremely strong, but at the same time he was aware that in parts of the country there was a feeling that the pensions should not be higher than in the Bill. Still, there was a feeling that the pensions should be commensurate with the service, and therefore he hoped it would be possible to amend the Bill.

The LORD CHANCELLOR said he entirely concurred in the remarks of the noble Earl.

Read 2ª (according to Order); and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Monday next.

BERRIEW SCHOOL BILL.

Read 2ª (according to Order); and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Monday next.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS (SCOTLAND) BILL [H.L.].

Considered in Committee (according to Order); Bill reported without Amendment; and re-committed to the Standing Committee.

VOLUNTEERS BILL.

Amendment reported (according to Order), and Bill to be Read 3ª on Monday next.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES (METRIC SYSTEM) BILL.

Brought from the Commons; Read 1ª, and to be printed.—[No. 153.]

House Adjourned at Half-past Five o'Clock, to Monday next, a Quarter past Four o'Clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Friday, 9th July 1897.

QUESTIONS.

COCOA BUTTER.

Sir HOWARD VINCENT: I beg to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he is able to state the amount of revenue obtained during the twelve months ending 30th June 1897, by the Customs Duty of 1d. per pound placed last Session upon the importation of the foreign manufacture known as cocoa butter; if the duty has diminished the quantity imported in the period in question compared to the previous twelve months; and if he is possession of any information as to the effect the imposition of the duty has had upon the home manufacture of butter from the cocoa bean for confectionery and other purposes?

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER (Sir Michael Hicks Beach, Bristol, W.): The revenue obtained by this duty has amounted to £3,004 from August 7, 1896, the date on which the duty took effect, to June 30. There are no statistics of the importations of cocoa butter prior to the imposition of the duty, but so far as can be ascertained by inquiry of the trade the quantity of foreign cocoa butter imported has increased rather than diminished, probably owing to the fact that the entire business of the manufacture of cocoa and chocolate has been in a very active condition during the last eight months.

TEACHERS' (IRELAND) PENSION ACT, 1879.

Mr. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N): I beg to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what was the gain to the Treasury since the Irish Teachers' Pension Act 1879 was passed owing to the retiring gratuities being thrown on the pension fund, and what did such gratuities amount to in the then preceding 18 years; (2) what was the loss to the teachers in the last 22 years owing to the commission on school books, &c., previously enjoyed by them, being stopped by the Treasury; and (3) is it the case that teachers are now more numerous and more highly classed than in 1879?

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER: As the hon. and learned Member has put these questions to me rather than to the Minister more directly concerned, I will endeavour to answer them from such materials as are at my disposal. (1) The gratuities referred to amounted, on the average of the nine years 1871-80, to £6,823 per annum. I have not the figures for earlier years. For the 16 years 1880-96 they averaged £938 per annum. So the saving referred to may be taken at £6,000 per annum. It was partly in consideration of this past saving that I agreed to ask Parliament to vote an annual sum in aid of the pension fund, which sum for the present year is £18,000. (2) I presume this question to refer to a system introduced in 1863, and abolished, with the concurrence of all the Departments concerned, in 1876, whereby a commission was allowed to teachers on the value of school books sold by them. I have no information as to the amount of such commission during the 12 or 13 years for which it lasted, but it appears to have been £3,500 in the last year, 1875-76. Any loss to the teachers by its abolition was far more than made up by increases to their salaries about the same time. (3) I believe that the numbers of teachers have sensibly increased since 1879, and I find that their average incomes have increased by more than 30 per cent., entirely from public funds.

IRISH MAIL SERVICE.

Mr. T. M. HEALY: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he is aware that the acceleration of the mails has led, in Dublin and neighbouring towns, to decreased postal facilities; by how much has the time for posting for morning mails in pillar boxes been abridged in Dublin itself; will he explain why no notice was given to the citizens, who could previously post up 4 a.m., that 1.15 a.m. is now the hour; have the proper labels been provided, notifying the new hours on the Dublin boxes; what do the Department gain by this deprivation of pre-existing facilities; is he aware that towns like Swords, which used to get their Irish letters at night, now only receive them next morning, while their English letters are delivered as usual every evening; and would it be possible not to withdraw pre-existing facilities, when inaugurating an accelerated mail service?

*The SECRETARY to the TREASURY (Mr. R. W. Hanbury, Preston): The Postmaster General is aware that the alterations in Dublin and the neighbourhood consequent on the acceleration of the English mails rendered it impossible in some cases to avoid the disturbance of facilities to which the public had been accustomed. The time of posting in the early morning in pillar boxes, which was formerly from 3.30 to 4 a.m., has been abridged by periods varying from two-and-a-half to four hours. An alteration in the time was necessary owing to the earlier departure of the provincial day mails: and, repeated experiments having shown that very few letters were posted after midnight, the present hours were adopted as being the most convenient for the arrangement of the duties of the staff. Apart from this there is no gain to the Department. The public were duly informed of the alteration by notices exhibited at the various post offices, at the clubs and hotels, as well as through the Press. The new notice plates for the letter boxes were ordered as soon as the hours of collection were finally settled and they will be issued without delay. Letters can still be posted at the General Post Office up to a short time before the dispatch of the mails. With regard to the effect of the acceleration on towns like Swords in the neighbourhood of Dublin, it should be explained that, previous to the acceleration, letters sent by the down night mail trains from Dublin reached such places in time for delivery by postman the same night, but the later departure of those mails by 50 minutes consequent on the later arrival in Dublin of the up day mails has made it impossible to continue that arrangement. Where possible, however, arrangements have been and are being made, for sending down the English day mail letters and such Dublin local letters as may be posted in time, by earlier trains, the letters being delivered by postman the same evening.

Mr. T. M. HEALY asked whether he was to understand that there would be a rearrangement that would include such towns as Swords.

*Mr. HANBURY: I think with regard to the towns outside Dublin, some rearrangement might be made such as I have indicated in the last paragraph of my reply.

Mr. T. M. HEALY asked whether that would include all the towns within a certain radius of Dublin, like Swords.

*Mr. HANBURY: I cannot say positively, because I cannot say what all the towns may be.

Sir THOMAS ESMONDE (Kerry, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, what would be the cost of sending the English mails to Killarney and Tralee in the morning viâ Mallow; what representations have been made to the Great Southern and Western Railway upon the subject by the Post Office; and, for what price have that railway company offered to do the work?

*MR. HANBURY: Several communicatsons with the Great Southern and Western Railway Company, written and verbal, have taken place respecting the desire which has been expressed for a day mail train to Killarney and Tralee viâ Mallow in connection with the accelerated service from England. The company have stated that they have no intention of establishing such a train for passenger purposes, and the payment which would be warranted for the mail service is too trifling to affect the question. The company have not therefore been asked for a price for the conveyance of the mails in this particular instance, but in another case 1s. 10d. a mile has been mentioned as a reasonable figure. This rate for a train in each direction between Mallow and Tralee, would represent a payment of £3,500 a year, whereas the letters to be benefited would warrant an additional outlay of only £130.

MR. J. P. FARRELL (Cavan, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, will he consider the advisability of establishing a mid-day collection and delivery of letters in Coossdoney, county Cavan; and is he aware that this could most conveniently be done, as the mid-day trains which run from Dublin to Cavan and back again to Dublin, conveying the mails from Killshandra and Arva, stop at Crossdoney railway station; moreover that this mid-day collection would cause letters to be delivered in Dublin the day on which they are posted, and that the delivery would cause letters which reached Cavan from Dublin at 11.30 a.m. to be delivered at Crossdoney at 2 p.m. instead of the next day?

*MR. HANBURY: The question of establishing a mid-day collection and delivery of letters at Crossdoney, county Cavan, has been inquired into. The hon. Member accurately indicates the arrangements by which the accommodation desired might be afforded, but it is found that the letters are few in number and would not justify the expenses involved. The existing service is already carried on at a loss to the revenue. The Postmaster General regrets that in these circumstances he is unable to meet the wishes of the hon. Member.

TITHE MAP (DENBIGHSHIRE).

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS (Denbighshire, W.): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether his attention has been drawn to the difficulty which has arisen between the Rector of Llandegalla, Denbighshire, and the parish council in reference to the custody of the tithe map; whether, seeing that the tithe maps are, under the Tithe Commutation Act 1836, to be kept with the public books, writings, and papers of the parish, a parish council has the right to direct, under Clause 17, subsection (8), of the Local Government Act 1894, that the tithe map be deposited in a place of safety and accessible to the parishioners; and whether he will state whether the appeal to the county council referred to in the same section extends beyond the selection of a suitable place by the parish council for the custody of such documents?

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. H. CHAPLIN, Lincolnshire, Sleaford): I have no information as to the particular case referred to except that which has been furnished to me by the hon. Member. It appears to the Board that the tithe maps are, under the Tithe Commutation Act 1836, to be kept with the public books, writings, and papers of the parish, and that the sub-section referred to in the Question therefore requires that they shall either remain in their existing custody or be deposited in such custody as the parish council may direct. If there be any difference as to whether these documents shall continue in their existing custody or should be deposited in some other custody in accordance with the directions of the parish council, the question may be referred to the county council for determination. The appeal to the county council under the sub-section would, it appears to me, apply not only to the custody of these maps, but to the question as to the access to them.

QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE.

MR. H. KIMBER (Wandsworth): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether there is any reason why the Jubilee medal, proposed to be conferred upon provincial mayors and Scottish provosts, should not also be conferred upon the chairman of the metropolitan district boards and of analogous bodies, seeing that many of the metropolitan districts are more populous and have a higher rateable value and area than many provincial boroughs.

*MR. HANBURY: My right hon. Friend the First Lord of the Treasury yesterday stated that there is no proposal to confer the medal upon the gentlemen mentioned by the hon. Member.

MUZZLING ORDER.

MR. C. E. SCHWANN (Manchester, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what is the number of convictions for infringement of the order for muzzling of dogs, for the last four or five years respectively in England?

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY, Lancashire, Blackpool): I cannot give the hon. Member precisely the information he asks for, but I may quote the numbers given in the judicial statistics of persons proceeded against for offences generally in relation to dogs, a heading that includes, besides infringments of muzzling orders, infringements of certain statutory requirements as to keeping dogs muzzled or otherwise under proper control. The number of persons so proceeded against in the years 1893 to 1895 were 3,539, 9,265, and 31,434, of whom respectively 2,952, 7,803, and 27,527 were convicted. No doubt the great majority of the proceedings were for infringements of muzzling orders.

CORK POST OFFICE.

SIR T. ESMONDE: On behalf of the hon. Member for Cork (Mr. MAURICE HEALY) I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether the sorting staff of the Cork Post Office have recently presented a petition asking for a re-arrangement of their hours of night duty: whether, inasmuch as under the sorting system the night duty lasts from 6.30 p.m. to 5 a.m. (and sometimes when an American mail arrives to 6 a.m.), with a break of three hours from 11 p.m. to 2 a.m., this interval not being computed as a period of work, and inasmuch as these hours are somewhat worse than those in force prior to the recent acceleration of the mails, the Postmaster General will take into consideration that the interval from 11 p.m. to 2 a.m. cannot be availed of by the staff either for rest or recreation; and that no suitable apartment is provided in the post office where the interval can be spent; whether he is aware that a grievance of a similar character exists in the parcel office; whether in the Limerick Post Office recently a similar grievance has been redressed by a re-arrangement of the hours of night duty; and whether the prayer of the petition, which proposes a re-arrangement of hours which would enable the staff to work continuously from 9 p.m. to 4 a.m., will be acceded to?

*MR. HANBURY: The petition referred to has been received by the District Surveyor who will submit it to headquarters in due course. The hours of duty in the sorting office at Cork are substantially as stated in the Question, but the interval between 11 p.m. and 2 a.m. is available for rest, as there is a retiring room which can be used by the staff. I am informed however that the officers reside, on the average, within about ten minutes' walk of the office. A re-arrangement of the duties has recently been made, experimentally, with the object of bridging over the midnight interval in some cases. This arrangement, which depends on combining the duties of sorting clerks and telegraphists, will, if found successful, be further extended as the number of officers who are qualified in both branches of the work increases, and it is hoped that by degrees a large proportion at least of the dual attendances between 9 p.m. and 4 a.m. will be done away with. A revision of the duties of the staff at Limerick was carried into effect some time ago and the break in the night attendance no longer exists there.

NAVAL PENSION (MICHAEL SAUNDERS).

Sir T. ESMONDE: On behalf of the hon. Member for Cork, I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty, (1) with regard to the case of Mr. Michael Saunders, of Evergreen Road, Cork, who has twice recently applied for the Greenwich Hospital Age Pension, having attained the prescribed age of 55 years in 1892, whether he has ascertained that Saunders suffers periodically from the effects of sunstroke with which he was attacked while on duty serving on H.M.S. *Rattlesnake*, on the West Coast of Africa, in the year 1864, during the Ashantee War; (2) whether in the natural course of things it is usual to grant this pension at the age of 55; and (3) whether, as Saunders is now 60, it will be granted to him?

The SECRETARY to the ADMIRALTY (Mr. W. E. Macartney, Antrim, S.): This man was medically surveyed in May 1896, and the medical officer stated as follows:—

> "He had a slight attack of sunstroke when in Ashanti many years ago, and gets frequent attacks of giddiness since then. With this exception, he is in very fair health. He is 60 years of age, and is an active man for his age. As he has no illness, he can contribute materially to his own support."

As his case was not as pressing as those of other applicants, he was not granted the pension in July 1896, when he last applied. The answer to the second paragraph is in the negative. Saunders will be 60 years of age in October next. He will be medically surveyed prior to that date with a view to the award of Age Pension.

BOARD OF TRADE OFFICE (CORK).

Sir T. ESMONDE: On behalf of the hon. Member for Cork, I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will explain why the Board of Trade refused to grant a sworn inquiry into the case of John J. Ahern, late freeholder and clerk at the Board of Trade Office, Cork, recently dismissed on a charge of insubordination on unsworn testimony; whether certain counter-charges made by Ahern were forwarded to the Board or investigated; and whether an inquiry on oath will now be granted into the charges made against Ahern and the counter-charges made by him?

The PRESIDENT of the BOARD of TRADE (Mr. Ritchie, Croydon): The officer referred to in the Question was a "tapeholder" employed by the week. As the result of an inquiry by the Board of Trade Principal Officer in Ireland, his conduct was found to have been seriously unsatisfactory, and it was decided to dispense with his services on a week's notice, in accordance with the terms of his employment. The counter-charges made by Ahern were also investigated, but, with one exception of an unimportant nature, they called for no action on the part of the Department. I do not propose to direct any further inquiry to be held in the matter.

REGULATIONS OF RAILWAYS ACT, 1889.

Mr. J. CALDWELL (Lanark, Mid): On behalf of the hon. Member for Ross and Cromarty (Mr. J. G. Weir) I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade, in view of the fact that there are many points in the bye-laws of the London and South Western and other Railway Companies which are in contravention of Section 5 of the Regulation of Railways Act 1889, will he state whether the Board of Trade have yet communicated with the various railway companies on the subject, and whether any date has yet been fixed for issuing the revised bye-laws?

Mr. RITCHIE: No, Sir; as I explained to the hon. Member in reply to a previous question, there are many points in the bye-laws which require consideration, and the Board propose to deal with them as a whole. I can assure the hon. Member that the matter will not be lost sight of, but the Department must be allowed to select a favourable opportunity for opening negotiations with the companies.

COUNTY ASYLUMS.

Mr. J. CALDWELL: On behalf of the hon. Member for Ross and Cromarty I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will state the result of his inquiry in regard to the classification of patients in county asylums whose maintenance is either wholly or partly recouped by sums received from relatives; and, whether it is intended to continue to classify such patients as paupers.

*Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY: The inquiry I have made confirms the supposition, which I expressed in my previous answer on this subject, that no real grievance exists. The present classification is based on the definition of the word "pauper" in the Lunacy Act of 1890; and I do not see sufficient reason for introducing the legislation which would be necessary if any alteration were to be made.

BRENNAN TORPEDOES.

Mr. WEIR: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War, if he will state whether any of the £265,320, expended up to the 31st March last in connection with Brennan torpedoes, has been paid for the invention, and whether any money has been paid for royalty; and, if so, will he state the amount of the respective payments?

The UNDER SECRETARY of STATE for WAR (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford): As was stated in this House in considerable detail on the 3rd May 1894, the purchase money for this invention was £110,000. No royalty has been paid or is payable.

OUTRAGES AT POONA.

Mr. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India, having regard to the reply given by Lord Sandhurst as to certain allegations relative to the methods adopted at Poona for the suppression of the plague, and more particularly as to the statement that, in the case of the inspection of the inmates of houses, there was no possibility of indignity to native women, owing to the presence of lady doctors and other ladies with search parties, will he state the number of lady doctors at Poona, and their names?

*The SECRETARY of STATE for INDIA (Lord George Hamilton, Middlesex, Ealing): I am informed by the Bombay Government that the lady doctors engaged with search parties were: Miss Bernard, M.D.; Miss Crawley, L.R.C.P.; Miss Dids, hospital assistant; Mrs. Goodall, a Parsee with some medical qualifications. Other ladies were: Mrs. Taylor; Miss Kelly; Mrs. Fernandez; Mrs. Balubai Awte, Hindu; Mrs. Bhamabai Awte, Hindu; Miss E. Barnard; Miss Tarkhad, Hindu; Miss M'Intosh, the Hong-kong nurse, when not employed as a nurse. As far as I can learn, there is only one other lady in Poona with medical qualifications.

Sir M. M. BHOWNAGGREE (Bethnal Green, N.E.) said that, arising out of the question, he wished to ask the noble Lord whether, besides lady doctors, many other ladies did not, together with independent gentlemen, at Bombay, Poona, and other plague centres, accompany those search parties which went to private houses to perform the work of inspection and other duties in connection with relief measures?

*Lord GEORGE HAMILTON: Yes, Sir; I believe that such assistance was given; and I understand that the Government encouraged such assistance. ["Hear, hear!"]

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether his attention has been directed to a letter of the late Mr. Rand, dated the 9th April, 1897, stating that women in Poona would not in the future be examined in the public streets for plague spots without the consent of the male members of their families; and, whether, having regard to this statement in this letter, he still adheres to the declaration that no charge of indignity inflicted on females by the officials of the Indian Government at Poona has been substantiated?

*Lord GEORGE HAMILTON: The hon. Gentleman in his question asserts that the late Mr. Rand stated in a letter dated April 9th, 1897, that women in Poona were examined in public streets, for plague spots. The late Mr. Rand made no such statement in his letter of the 9th of April. ["Hear, hear!"] What he said was that no inspection of any females should hereafter take place in the streets if they or their families objected. Upon this word "inspection" the hon. Baronet, the Member for Banffshire chose to put the interpretation that it meant stripping women in the public streets in order to detect plague spots, and currency to this interpretation has been given by the Press. The following telegram from the Government of Bombay disposes of this legend:—

> "Street inspection mentioned in Rand's letter of April 9th last, arose thus:—When searching was first instituted, women in many houses remained in dark rooms, where it was impossible to see whether they were ill, so householders were desired to cause their women to come into open place, such as reasonably light room or courtyard or street, merely that it might be seen whether they looked ill. If there appeared reason for actual medical examination, it was conducted with every regard for decency, not in public, and in case of women never by anyone but a woman, unless no objection was raised to examination by a commissioned medical officer. Allegations that women were stripped in streets to detect plague symptoms is malevolent fabrication." [*Cheers.*] "The native gentlemen and native doctors must have been cognisant of street inspection, as of all that went on."

This being so, I adhere to the answer I previously gave to the effect that in the opinion of the Bombay Government no charge had been substantiated that indignity was offered by the search parties to native ladies. [*Cheers.*]

IRISH FISHERIES.

MR. G. MURNAGHAN (Tyrone, Mid): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, whether he is aware that during the month of April there were some 40 French boats with 20 to 24 men in each amounting to 900 men fishing off Crookhaven, that two Manx Companies employ between there and Kinsale 140 boats and about 1,000 men, and that there are several hundred fishermen from France, Isle of Man, and other places who find remunerative employment around the Irish coast, while many of the native population can find no work to do; and as Irish fishermen are too poor to purchase large-sized boats and proper outfits without which the business cannot be worked successfully, will he consider this matter with a view to placing the natives in a position to compete on fairly equal terms with the French or Manx fishermen?

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): It is the fact that a number of French boats fished off the south-west coast of Ireland in the spring of this year, and Crookhaven, which is one of the many ports in this district, has been made the head-quarters of the Co-operative Manx Fishing Company, much to the benefit of the locality. A considerable number of large fishing vessels are owned by native fishermen in this part of Cork, the majority of which have been purchased by means of loans issued through the Inspectors of Fisheries or Congested Districts Board. If the hon. Member will look at the last-published reports of the Fishery Inspectors and Congested Districts Board he will find that the total number of loans advanced on the recommendation of the former to December 31, 1895, for the purchase of boats and for other fishery purposes, was 474, amounting to £10,062, in addition to which 619 loans for £9,515 were issued by the Congested Districts Board down to March 31, 1896.

KINSALE PIER.

DR. COMMINS (Cork Co., S.E.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury (1) whether it has been brought under his notice that the Board of Works constructed the Pier of Kinsale under the provisions of the Kinsale Harbour Act, 1880, in which the entire cost was estimated at £16,000; that they let the work to a contractor who undertook it for £13,879, but that the final cost of the Pier was £21,852, and the anticipated indebtedness of these authorities increased from £6,500 to £11,267, repayable in 25 years; that the practical rating valuation does not exceed £5,000; that the difficulties have been aggravated by the measures taken by the Board of Works to enforce payment; and that the fishery, to encourage which the Pier was built, has declined since 1885; and (2) does the Government propose, by the conversion of the debt to one of a longer term, or otherwise, to do anything to assist the ratepayers and enable them to discharge the debt, together with their sanitary and other duties, without crippling their resources and entailing the further decay of a once prosperous town and its trade?

*MR. HANBURY: (1) The figures given in the first paragraph are approximately correct. A very large proportion of the increase on the existing Estimate was due to the increased price put upon the land by the local owners. The question of reduction of interest must be considered in connection with any Bill dealing generally with the rates of Local Loans. (2) Any extension of the period or reduction of the debt, will be duly considered when the Kinsale Harbour and Town Commissioners show a *bonâ-fide* desire to recognise their obligations. At present even the rate struck in May 1896, has not yet been collected.

Mr. FLYNN asked, whether there was any evidence of a desire on the part of the Commissioners to avoid payment?

*Mr. HANBURY: Very great pressure has been brought to bear upon them, and my view is that they rather desire to avoid the obligation.

CALCUTTA RIOTS.

Mr. SAMUEL SMITH (Flintshire): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he has any information to show that 600 was a low estimate of the number of persons killed in the recent riots in the City of Calcutta?

*Lord GEORGE HAMILTON: So far from 600 being a low estimate of the persons killed in the recent riots in the neighbourhood of Calcutta, the real number seems to be seven ascertained deaths. The following is the latest telegraphic communication that I have received on the subject, dated July 8th:—

> "Your telegram of yesterday. Government of Bengal reports number of killed during riots seven—"[*Cries of* "Oh!"]—"estimated number wounded about 20, of whom four or five may have since died, the bodies being disposed of by their relatives. Calcutta reported quiet to-day, and Mahomedan leaders scrupulously exerting themselves to allay excitement. Mill hands quiet."

Mr. SAMUEL SMITH asked the noble Lord whether *The Times* correspondent had not put the number at 600, and whether other estimates did not put it as high as 1,500?

*Lord GEORGE HAMILTON: I do not know where the hon. Gentleman gets his information from, but I have given him the figures from the authentic report.

GRENADIER GUARDS.

Mr. JAMES HOZIER (Lanark, S.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War what the strength of each of the three battalions of the Grenadier Guards is at present; what the new establishment of each of the three battalions is intended to be; and whether it will be possible, even by taking all the recruits from the depôt, to raise the 1st Battalion of the Grenadier Guards to the strength required for Gibraltar without drawing on the 2nd and 3rd Battalions of the regiment?

Mr. BRODRICK: Omitting the regimental staff, the strength of the three battalions of the Grenadier Guards on July 1 was respectively 970, 733, and 688. In addition there were at the depôt 73 men who have hitherto been counted on the strength of the battalions. The establishment is intended to be 978, 802, and 802, and 73 at the depôt. Each battalion as it embarks will be raised to 978; while the battalion returning home will be reduced to 802. From the above figures it will be seen that the first battalion is numerically at the strength for embarkation, but as every battalion at home has certain men in its ranks who cannot be embarked for foreign service, there must necessarily at each embarkation be some transfers.

RECRUITS (FOOT GUARDS).

Mr. HOZIER: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether the standard of height for recruits for the Foot Guards has been reduced during the last six months?

Mr. BRODRICK: On May 8 the standard of the Foot Guards was reduced from 5 ft. 8½ in. to 5 ft. 8 in. for men over 20 years of age, and 5 ft. 7 in. for recruits who are younger.

Dr. FARQUHARSON (Aberdeenshire, W.) asked whether the reason for the reduction of the standard was that there had been an increased difficulty in obtaining recruits during the last six months?

Mr. BRODRICK: Whenever there is an increase in the number of the Army the standard is reduced. The standard now adopted is that which has been in force in the Guards for many years.

STERLING LOAN (INDIA).

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether his attention has been drawn to the memorandum written by Mr. J. H. Sleigh, manager of the Bank of Bombay, showing the large economy which would be secured by taking up a sterling loan in this country; and whether, in view of the proposal of the Government of India to take up a rupee loan of four crores in India, he will consider the desirability of adopting the course suggested?

*LORD GEORGE HAMILTON: I will refer the hon. Member to the reply which I gave on 2nd July to a precisely similar question.

EARTHQUAKE (ASSAM).

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he has received any official information as to the extent of the destruction by the recent earthquake in Assam of the property of the Welsh Presbyterian Foreign Missionary Society, which has stations in the Khasia and Jaintia Hills and in Sylhet; and whether he has any information as to the position of the missionaries of that society in their present calamitous circumstances?

*LORD GEORGE HAMILTON: No, Sir; I have no information concerning the injury done to the property in question. All telegrams received by me regarding the results of the earthquake have been published; tidings by mail have not yet arrived from Assam. The Viceroy's telegram of June 22 said:

> "Reassuring news from Sylhet district, where damage and distress caused by earthquake are less than was supposed."

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS: On behalf of hon. Member for the Walthamstow Division of Essex (Mr. S. WOODS), I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, whether he will offer facilities to the paper keepers of the Post Office Savings Bank to be transferred to other Departments, where they would have hopes of advancement, as, after serving on an average 29 years, they find that, owing to the distance they reside from the City, it would be impossible for them to get to the office at the time required, viz.: 4 a.m., and are therefore unable to accept the offer of a split duty in the Circulation Department; and, will he grant a Return showing how many promotions have taken place on the minor establishment in the Savings Bank Department during the last ten years?

MR. HANBURY: The Postmaster-General regrets that he cannot propose to the officers referred to any facilities for transfer to other Departments. The Return asked for is being sent to the hon. Member by post.

WESTPORT GUARDIANS LOAN.

DR. ROBERT AMBROSE (Mayo, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the fact that the Law Department of the Irish Board of Works claim the sum of £15 10s. 9d. from the Westport Guardians under the heading "Public Health Service;" that the Westport Guardians deny any service rendered under such heading; and, whether the Board of Works are within their right in making such claim; and, if so, under what authority?

*MR. HANBURY: It is gathered from the form of the Question that the claim is believed to be for services rendered by the solicitor, or for costs. This is a misapprehension, probably due to the fact that a new clerk has been appointed to the Guardians. The demand is for an instalment of £14 3s. 1d. on a Public Health Loan and an instalment on an Emigration Loan of £1 7s. 8d., which instalments were due on 1st May last, and should have been paid at latest on 1st June. Being in arrear, payment is demanded over the solicitor's name.

CULLODEN HOUSE.

MR. J. MCLEOD (Sutherland): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether steps will be taken, by means of a Supplementary Estimate or otherwise, to preserve for the Scottish people the historical relics now having a habitation at Culloden House, and which are advertised for public sale?

*The LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. Graham Murray, Buteshire): The Secretary for Scotland has directed the attention of the responsible authorities to the approaching dispersion of the Culloden Collection, and the question whether any of the relics are of a character suitable for acquisition on behalf of the nation will receive due consideration.

CHINA AND GREAT BRITAIN.

Captain NORTON (Newington, W.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he can give any information with regard to new arrangements recently concluded between Her Majesty's Government and the Government of China other than that already in possession of the House?

The UNDER SECRETARY of STATE for FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Mr. G. Curzon, Lancashire, Southport): I am afraid that the information which the hon. Member desires could hardly be given within the limits of a Parliamentary answer. But he will find it in the text of the new Anglo-Chinese agreement regarding the Burmese frontier, which will be presented before long.

*Sir CHARLES DILKE (Gloucester, Forest of Dean) asked whether the right hon. Gentleman could say when the arrangement would be made public?

Mr. CURZON: No, I cannot give the exact date. We are waiting for the production of the maps, which will show the difference between the old arrangement and the new. We hope that it will be before the end of the present Session.

*Sir C. DILKE asked whether the arrangement did not refer to matters other than those concerning the Burmese frontier?

Mr. CURZON: Speaking from recollection, my impression is that it does.

BRITISH ARMY IN INDIA.

Captain PIRIE (Aberdeen, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether the system of enlisting Eurasians (the descendants of Englishmen, Scotchmen, and Irishmen in India) into the British Army in India, as carried on in past years, may now, in view of the strongly expressed desire of this class of Her Majesty's subjects, receive more distinct encouragement from the Government?

Lord GEORGE HAMILTON: The question has been more than once carefully considered by Her Majesty's Government, who are not prepared to make any change in the regulations under which this class can enlist in the British Army.

DISAPPEARANCE OF A TRAVELLER.

Mr. J. HOWARD (Middlesex, Tottenham): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether his attention has been called to a letter in *The Times* of the 2nd instant from Miss Cooper, and a further letter in that of the 8th instant from Mr. Thomas Hardy, writing from Geneva, relating to the disappearance under mysterious circumstances of Mr. James Robert Cooper, of Reigate, on his way from Zermatt to the Riffel Alp; and whether, as both writers express surprise that no public notice had been taken of the event, he will cause inquiries to be made with a view to elicit, if possible, some explanation of the matter?

Mr. CURZON: Instructions will be sent to Her Majesty's Minister at Berne to furnish a Report on this subject.

CRETE

Mr. JOHN DILLON (Mayo, E.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he has any information as to the alleged preparations of the Mahommedans of Candia to attack in force the camp of Archanes in the neighbourhood of Candia; and whether the Admirals and Military authorities have received warning of the preparations for this expedition?

Mr. CURZON: On the 7th instant Her Majesty's Minister at Athens heard from the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs that the Cretan refugees at Syra were apprehensive of an attack on Archanes by Mussulmans collected at Candia for the purpose. Sir A. Biliotti has, however, reported by telegraph that no Mussulmans had collected in Candia with the object of attacking the village, but that the cutting off until lately of the water supply which had undermined the sources near Archanes had offered a very strong provocation to the Mussulmans to attack the place. Such an attack had, however, been averted by the measures taken by Colonel Chermside, who had given frequent warnings of the possibility of trouble both to the Turkish authorities and to the insurgents.

MR. DILLON asked the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, whether there was any truth in the statement that the foreign Admirals had decided, and published their decision, that for the future all columns marching into the interior of Crete shall be strengthened and take cannon with them, and that any attack on the part of the insurgents shall be visited with severe reprisals?

MR. CURZON: I have made inquiries in regard to the subject mentioned by the hon. Member, and I find that neither at the Foreign Office nor at the Admiralty has any information been received on the matter.

MR. DILLON said the statement had been made in all the London journals, and he should repeat the Question.

WICKLOW HARBOUR.

MR. W. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he can state if he will introduce a Bill this Session to enable the funds to be obtained to repair Wicklow Harbour?

MR. HANBURY: Yes, Sir, as I have already stated in this House, a Bill dealing with the subject is in course of preparation, and will be introduced as soon as ready if I can be assured that it will meet with no opposition.

DUBLIN METROPOLITAN POLICE.

MR. W. FIELD: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether, inasmuch as the police being a civil force are under the control of the municipal authorities in Great Britain, he will introduce a Measure to give the Dublin Corporation similar authority over the Dublin Metropolitan police?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: No, Sir, I am not prepared to introduce a Measure such as suggested in this Question.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION (IRELAND).

MR. FIELD: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Government will proceed with the Measure which proposed to endow a system of agricultural and technical training under the control of an Irish department; whether the Government will consider the desirability of including the promised provisions for technical instruction in the Bill already introduced, instead of dealing with it by a subsidiary Bill; and, whether the sum provided from Imperial funds in this year's Budget will be so utilised without delay?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: The Agricultural and Industries (Ireland) Bill has already been withdrawn, and it was publicly stated by the First Lord of the Treasury that the proposed Measure dealing with technical education in Ireland would not be proceeded with.

FEVER OUTBREAK (BELMULLET UNION).

MR. FIELD; I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland (1) whether he is aware that, in February 1897, the medical officer, Dr. Cleary, reported to the guardians of Belmullet Union an epidemic of fever, and asked that proper sanitary precautions should be taken; (2) whether the Government will give a grant to relieve the distress and provide the nourishment necessary for the islanders of Inniskea; and (3) whether, as the communication between the mainland and the island is by open boat, it will be improved and facilitated during this exceptional period?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: The facts are as stated in the first paragraph. The fever cases referred to occurred on the mainland where, I regret to state, fever is seldom entirely absent, owing to the insanitary condition of many of the dwellings of the people. The necessary sanitary precautions were at once adopted by the guardians, and the medical inspector of the Local Government Board was instructed personally to satisfy himself that all the requisite steps were taken, as well as to assist the guardians by his advice. As regards the islanders of Inniskea, relief and nourishment have already been provided for those of the islanders who are sick or destitute. The Congested Districts Board have placed their steamer at the disposal of the guardians and the local officials for the purpose of communication with the island.

MR. D. CRILLY (Mayo, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland (1) whether he is assured that the Congested Districts Board has granted the free use of a large shed for the nursing of the fever-stricken people of Inniskea Island; (2) whether he is aware that on Monday last Mr. Charles Kennedy, a member of the Congested Districts Board, attended a meeting of committee of the Belmullet Board of Guardians, and offered, on behalf of the Congested Districts Board, to sell some vacant sheds, at a price varying from £20 to £100, to the Board of Guardians for nursing purposes; and (3) if such is the fact, the Local Government Board will provide free hospital accommodation for the invalids of Inniskea Island?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: The Congested Districts Board have lent buildings on Inniskea Island to the Board of Guardians free of all cost or expense. I understand that Mr. Kennedy did not make the offer alleged in the second paragraph.

TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION ENGLAND AND IRELAND.

MR. D. MACALEESE (Monaghan, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether no direct telegraphic communication exists between the North of Ireland and the two important centres of Oxford and Cambridge; has complaint been made to the Department that messages recently sent from these places took two hours to reach Belfast; and will a remedy be provided for this?

*MR. HANBURY: The answer to the first two Questions is in the affirmative. The messages referred to by the hon. Member were multiple press telegrams of some length, and in view of the pressure of business at the time, the delay which occurred seems to have been unavoidable. The number of telegrams between Oxford and Cambridge and the North of Ireland is not sufficient to justify the establishment of direct telegraphic communication.

CAVAN AND LEITRIM LIGHT RAILWAY.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he has received the Report of the auditor of the Cavan and Leitrim Light Railway; whether he is aware that the directors still keep their office in Dublin at a cost of £500 to the cesspayers, who have guaranteed this line, and that the line is still unable to pay a dividend without a baronial contribution from Cavan and Leitrim; and, will he call the attention of the Treasury to this wasteful expenditure?

*MR. HANBURY: The Report was received on the 4th June. It is within the discretion of the directors of the company where its central offices shall be, and, even assuming that any additional expense is caused by the offices of the company being in Dublin instead of at one of the towns on their line, it is by no means clear that the affairs of the company, and therefore the interests of the cesspayers, would benefit by a change.

ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland (1) whether any complaints have been received of the manner in which Head Constable Dalton, of Swanlinbar, is at present conducting the police affairs of that district; and (2) when will an officer be placed in charge of it?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: The reply to the first paragraph is in the negative. The district only became vacant on the 1st ultimo, and an officer will be appointed to it as soon as one is available.

POST OFFICE TELEPHONE EXCHANGES.

MR. A. D. PROVAND (Glasgow, Blackfriars): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether the post office paid anything, either by purchase or as royalty or otherwise, for permission to use patented instruments in the Post Office telephone exchanges; and, if so, how much was paid, over how many years and for what patents, giving the total sum paid for each patent?

*MR. HANBURY: The Post Office has not at any time purchased or paid royalty for the right to use a telephone patent. Such instruments as it required before the expiration of the patent in 1891 were all of the Gower Bell pattern, and were obtained by purchase under agreement with the holders of the patent.

OLD AGE PENSIONS.

MR. JAMES RANKIN (Herefordshire, Leominster): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he can give the House any information as to when the Committee on Old Age Pensions is likely to present its Report; and, if that Report is presented before next year, whether the Government, in view of the great interest taken in this Question, will introduce a Measure to deal with the subject next Session?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): I am informed that the Committee hope to conclude taking evidence next week, and report some time in the course of the autumn. I cannot say what course will be taken on the Report until the Report is in our hands. At present I have not the slightest idea what the Report is going to be.

CHAFF-CUTTING MACHINES (ACCIDENTS) BILL.

MR. R. ASCROFT (Oldham): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that the Chaff-Cutting Machines (Accidents) Bill, which was before the Grand Committee on Trade on Monday last, was on the following day read the Third time before copies of the Bill as amended in Committee had been supplied to Members; and, whether he will consider the advisability of altering the Standing Orders, so that Members may have a reasonable time allowed to consider Amendments made in Committee before a Bill is read the Third time?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: I entirely agree with my hon. Friend that it is inexpedient for the House to discuss the Report of a Bill from a Committee unless the Bill as amended is in their hands—in other words, until the Bill has been reprinted. But let me say that my hon. Friend has only to say "I object" and it is impossible for the Bill to be proceeded with after midnight.

MR. JAMES LOWTHER (Kent, Thanet) asked Mr. Speaker what alteration could be made in the Rules of the House to prevent the possibility of such an occurrence again.

*MR. SPEAKER: I have had some experience with reference to the process of revising the Standing Orders. It generally takes a good deal of time. The right hon. Member asked me what alteration was necessary. I must respectfully decline to draft an amendment to the Standing Orders at a moment's notice.

MR. J. LOWTHER: Perhaps my right hon. Friend will undertake that. [*Laughter.*]

*SIR H. FOWLER (Wolverhampton, E.) asked whether the Speaker could not give directions to the Clerks at the Table not to allow a Bill to be put down for consideration until it had been reprinted. The case that had been mentioned was not the only one. It had occurred already this week. By pure chance he was able to interfere in one case in which a Bill was before a Committee one day and was put down for consideration with a large number of Amendments the next. He thought this abuse of the Rules of the House could be prevented without the necessity of any alteration of the Standing Orders?

*MR. SPEAKER: I think I should be taking too much upon myself if I gave such directions. It has always been the practice to put down these Bills for consideration as amended on their being reported to the House. They then appear among the Orders of the Day, and if they have not yet been reprinted when the Order is called on, hon. Members have sometimes brought that fact to the attention of the Chair, which generally suggests that the Bill should not be taken until the House has had an opportunity of seeing and considering the Amendments made in Committee. But this is a matter in which the House must take care of itself.

MR. PARKER SMITH (Lanark, Partick) asked whether, before the House considered the Workmen's Compensation Bill on Monday, the First Lord of the

Treasury would have it reprinted with the Amendments that had been made?

The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY said he would consult the proper authorities as to whether that could be done.

TEACHERS' SUPERANNUATION.

Mr. ASCROFT: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury, in view of the recommendations of the Commission on Elementary Education in 1888, and of various Committees since that date in favour of a system of State-aided Superannuation, and also of the promises made by the Government in 1896 to bring in a Bill on the subject, whether he can give any information as to the date when the Bill will be introduced?

The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY: Questions on this subject have been put several times in the course of the Session and I have given but one answer which I am afraid I cannot modify.

LAND LAW ACTS (IRELAND). ROYAL COMMISSION.

Mr. JOHN MORLEY (Montrose Burghs) asked the Chief Secretary for Ireland whether he was in a position to state the names of gentlemen who were to constitute the Commission to inquire into the administration of the Land Acts and Land Purchase Acts in Ireland.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: The Royal Commission to be appointed to inquire into the procedure and practice and the methods of valuation followed under the Land Law Acts and the Land Purchase Acts, Ireland, will be constituted as follows:—

The right hon. Sir Edward Fry, formerly one of the Judges of Her Majesty's Court of Appeal, will be the Chairman.

The other Members will be Mr. Robert Vigers, and Mr. George Gordon, experts in the valuation of land; Mr. Traill and Mr. George Fottrell.

Mr. Cherry, Q.C., will act as Secretary of the Commission.

Mr. J. MORLEY: I should like to put a Question to the First Lord of the Treasury in connection with this subject. He is perhaps aware that there has been standing on the Paper in my name for some time a notice giving the House an opportunity of expressing its disapproval of the issue of this Commission, I should like to ask whether he can arrange for a day for the discussion of this matter?

The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY: The right hon. Gentleman has only just given notice of this Question. Perhaps he would put it off, in order that I may give a final answer, to this day week. It is impossible next week that I should find a day, for reasons with which this House is very familiar. May I point out to the right hon. Gentleman, however, that there has been a whole night spent already on Irish Estimates in discussing this particular Question. With a view of winding up the Session I am not of course very anxious to give days, of which there are only two left to me, to carry out what is absolutely the minimum programme of legislation. Would the right hon. Gentleman before next Friday consider this suggestion? The Vote for the Land Commission has not yet been passed; I believe I could undertake—it is only a provisional suggestion—that if that Vote were allowed to be passed in the ordinary course under the Standing Order, I would take the report of that Vote first upon the day which under the Standing Order is given to the discussion of the Report stage of Supply. It appears to me that that might meet the views of the right hon. Gentleman and would not involve the deferring of our holiday, which many of us are very desirous to have.

Mr. J. MORLEY: Of course, I shall naturally give my best consideration to the suggestion which the right hon. Gentleman has thrown out. I would only put it to him that the issue of this Commission is, as he will admit, a subject of very great importance indeed, and there is a great deal to be said against taking a specific and definite matter of this kind in connection with a mere discussion on the Estimates, I think he will recognise that, but I will, however, consult hon. Gentlemen from Ireland on this matter.

Mr. T. M. HEALY: With regard to the Land Commission, will the Chief

Secretary give us the addresses and qualifications of Mr. Robert Vigers and Mr. George Gordon?

*MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I am afraid I cannot give the addresses. Mr. Robert Vigers is very well known as a land surveyor and valuer in London. Mr. George Gordon is also an eminent man in his profession; he is a native of Scotland—[*Irish laughter*]—and has been engaged very largely in the service of the Crofters' Commission.

MR. T. M. HEALY: Have either of these gentlemen visited Ireland in their lives?

*MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I cannot say.

MR. MACNEILL: Is Dr. Traill our eminent Orange friend of Trinity College?

[No answer was given.]

GROUND GAME ACT (EXTENSION TO COPYHOLDERS) BILL.

Second Reading upon Wednesday, 21st July.

MOTIONS.

POLLING ARRANGEMENTS (PARLIAMENTARY BOROUGHS) BILL.

To amend the law relating to the Arrangement of Polling Districts in Parliamentary Boroughs, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Bond, Mr. Harrison, and Colonel Hughes; presented and read the First time; to be read a Second time upon Tuesday next, and to be printed.—[Bill 307.]

POLLING DISTRICTS (COUNTY COUNCILS) BILL.

To make further provision with respect to the Arrangement of Polling Districts for the Election of County Councillors, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Bond, Mr. Harrison, and Colonel Hughes; presented and read the First time; to be read a Second time upon Tuesday next, and to be printed.—[Bill 308.]

Mr. T. M. Healy.

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

SUPPLY.

(SIXTEENTH ALLOTTED DAY).

Considered in Committee.

[The CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS, Mr. J. W. LOWTHER, in the Chair.]

CIVIL SERVICE ESTIMATES, 1897-8.

CLASS II.

Motion made, and Question proposed—

"That a sum, not exceeding £26,247, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1898, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Office of Public Works in Ireland."

*MR. P. J. POWER (Waterford, E.) commented on the action of the Office of Works in regard to the Waterford, Dungarvan, and Lismore Railway Company, and referred to the large sums which had been contributed by the late Duke of Devonshire on the construction and furtherance of the line. This line was opened for traffic in 1878, the share capital was £280,000, and the loan capital £113,333. This undertaking cost a great deal more than the estimate. The total cost of construction came to £478,000. The late Duke of Devonshire contributed £71,280 to the share capital of the company, as well as subsequent sums to a considerable amount. But for the enormous sums he had advanced, and the deep interest he took in Ireland and in his property there, the line would have been absolutely derelict. The County Grand Jury of Waterford pledged the county cess—a rate to which it should be remembered they did not at all contribute—to the extent of £14,000 a year. It was said at the time that this guarantee would never be called upon. But what had happened? The line had been built 22 years, and during all those years the ratepayers had been paying £14,000 a year to provide the shareholders with their dividends; a most monstrous taxation considering that the people who pay had had no voice whatever in the imposition of the tax. In the barony in which he lived the tax amounted to 11½d. in the pound, and in the adjoining barony it was 1s. 3½d. in the pound. Under these circumstances he maintained, considering that the ratepayers had paid for the last 22 years £308,000 in the shape of the guarantee, and that they were still liable for another 18 years to pay this £14,000 a year, or a lump sum of £252,000, before any action was taken by the Treasury, it was only just and right that their wishes should be consulted. But the ratepayers who partly owned the line had been treated in the most extraordinary way by the Board of Works. The Board had an inspection of the line eight years ago, and the Report made by the inspector was favourable to the management of the line. In the spring of this year, however, an engineer went down without notice, went over the line and examined it thoroughly and reported to the Board. The Board was asked to give a copy of the report of the inspection to the local directors. They refused, stating that it was a confidential document; but, they added:

> "It does not appear from the Report that the management of the line was in any sense defective, and no improvements would be suggested by a perusal of the Report."

Nevertheless the Board communicated with Mr. Curry, the agent of the Duke of Devonshire in London, that it was their intention to supersede the local director with a director of their own, and it was only at the request of the Duke of Devonshire that this contemplated action was communicated to the local directors. It was a curious thing that if there was any fault to be found with the management of the line those who were managing it should not be made acquainted with what was wrong. Yet he had been informed that the report of the inspector was submitted without hesitation to the directors of the Rosslare and Fishguard Railway Company, who were said to be in negotiation for the purchase of the line. The tax for the maintenance of the line amounted to 11d. in the pound on the county ratepayers of the County of Waterford, and to 8d. in the pound on the ratepayers of the City of Waterford. This tax pressed very heavily on the ratepayers of what was a very poor county. It was to avoid that heavy taxation that an Act was passed in 1883 guaranteeing from the Treasury 2 per cent. if there was a local guarantee of 4 or 5 per cent. to aid in the construction of railways in Ireland. He maintained that the ratepayers of the County of Waterford should participate in the advantages of that legislation. The line in question did not differ materially from lines in various parts of the country which had been helped by the contribution from the Treasury. It might be said that there was no congested district in Waterford, but if there were no such districts in the sense of the Act there were districts which were exceedingly poor. In the Union of Dungarvan there were large districts inhabited by people whose valuation did not exceed £5, and in the Lismore Union the total number of valuations were £4,400, or which £3,200 were under a valuation of £10 a year. Then there was a great deal of waste land in the county of Waterford. The total area of the county was 461,552 acres, and no less than 123,742 acres were waste or under water, so that there was nearly a third of the county waste. It might be said that the interests of the ratepayers would be carefully looked after by the Treasury, but those who had any experience of the Treasury in Ireland could have no confidence whatever in them. After very little consultation the Treasury intended to dispose of the line to some company which the ratepayers knew very little about. He could not understand why there should be such hugger-mugger about those consultations. The ratepayers of Waterford had as large an interest in the line as the Treasury had, and the right hon. Gentleman was bound by the promise he had made to a large and influential deputation to place before the ratepayers of Waterford what his intentions were in regard to the line before any action was taken. Under the Act of 1883 the ratepayers would have been entitled to £8,000 a year towards paying their guarantee, and if the line had been constructed a few years after 1883 they would have been entitled to some of the free gifts that were given from the Imperial Exchequer for the construction of railways in Ireland. He thought it was too bad that the people of Waterford should be debarred from participating in the benefits of that legislation. The Duke of Devonshire had consented to forego his entire claim of £70,000 if the Treasury would forego their claim of £93,000. The directors of the line had met the representatives of the ratepayers and had offered them four out of the nine seats on the Board of Directors, and whatever the line earned over its working expenses.

*Dr. COMMINS (Cork, S.E.), said he he wished to acknowledge the courtesy of the Secretary of the Treasury, but he thought he could show the right hon. Gentleman that he had been led astray with regard to the case of Kinsale. The Board of Works were responsible for the present *impasse.* They had dealt with the town as though it wished to repudiate its debts, and there was no ground for such an idea. £6,500 was to be borrowed from the Board of Works for the purpose of constructing a harbour. The Board of Works undertook to do the work, and when it was completed, in 1885, it was found that the cost was over £21,000, or more than £3,000 above their own estimates, and the debt which the local authorities had undertaken, instead of £6,500 as they expected, had been increased to nearly £12,000—a burden which had proved entirely beyond their resources. The population of Kinsale at the last census was 4,600, and the gross valuation was £5,574, while the practical valuation was £5,000, or only £1 1s. 2½d. per head of the population. The enforcement of the claims of the Board of Works had been most ruinous to the town. The rates had been made very burdensome, and nearly all the shipping had been driven from the port by the heavy harbour dues entailed by the debt. In the meantime the fishing trade had gone down. In 1885 there were 876 boats using the pier, and in 1890 there were only 91. Yet the Board of Works had exacted the arrears of the debt by appeal to nearly every court in the land, piling up large bills of costs by the way. Though £5,958 had been paid off the original debt of £12,000, the outstanding claim was only £1,000 less than the claim of 1885. A collector of Customs had been appointed, and also a collector of the port duties, under the Receiving Order of the Court. This collector did what he had never heard of being done elsewhere—instead of taking the usual bond for the payment of the dues, he had seized vessels and detained them till payment was made. The result was that captains of vessels dare not come near the port. If the Secretary of the Treasury would consider the matter he would see that this was not a question in which the Harbour Commissioners or the Town Commissioners were personally concerned, for all they were trying to do was to stand between the Board of Works and the cruel pressure upon poor people who could not pay. If the Treasury would remit the whole amount of the loan, they would not be guilty of an extreme piece of generosity; at all events, he would ask the Secretary to the Treasury to do something in order to prevent the ruin that threatened the port.

Mr. T. M. HEALY understood there was a promise by the Irish Secretary that a settlement would be made upon this occasion with regard to the Irish railway policy of the Government. With regard to the Irish Board of Works, of course it was natural for the Irish Secretary to appoint a Scotchman at the head of the Department. The Irish Board of Works, so-called, consisted of one Englishman, one Scotchman, and one Irishman. It was in reality a branch of the British Treasury. He had long considered what ought to be done with the Irish Board of Works, and he was prepared to make a suggestion of a practical kind. There was a gentleman for some years very favourably known in this House as an obstructor. He was now in "another place," and would make, he could not help thinking, a capital head of the Irish Board of Works —he referred to Mr. Jabez Balfour. [*Laughter.*] Notwithstanding all the millions it had had the expenditure of, it could not point to a single creditable undertaking. Reference had been made to the action of the Custom House officer at Kinsale, who had very harshly put in force the law against the local people, but one little thing had not been mentioned—namely, that the Government, as a reward to this officer for his stringent action, had transferred him to Hartlepool at an increased salary. Now, apropos of the Waterford, Dungarvan, and Lismore Railway, Irish Members had not much to say of the Duke of Devonshire, when he sat in this House as Lord Hartington, but if any man on the Treasury Bench would show him a letter from the Duke to the Treasury saying he was perfectly satisfied with the proposed action of the Treasury, he should be quite satisfied also. If the Duke said he was satisfied, he was quite sure a fair thing would have been done. A shark of an attorney ran a Bill through this

House and the House of Lords saddling Waterford with a guarantee of £14,000 per annum, and the first thing the ratepayers knew of it was that they were liable for the guarantee. Lord Redesdale, in consequence of that scandal, passed a Standing Order making it impossible for any private Bill to pass without the previous sanction of the different local bodies down to the Boards of Guardians. The county had had to find that money for the last 22 years. The Duke of Devonshire provided out of his own pocket first £70,000, then another £70,000, and then again, out of his own pocket, made a line from Lismore to Fermoy. He could say that the Devonshire family had taken a real, practical, and paternal interest in the care of this county of Waterford. For every sovereign the British Treasury had spent, the Devonshire family had advanced two. Not only had they found the sovereigns, but they had provided the rolling stock. And what was the position to-day? The Shylock of the British Treasury came down and proposed to sell out the line, while the Duke of Devonshire, whose family had spent, one way and another, close on a quarter of a million on the line, was left absolutely without a fraction to show for his public-spirited enterprise. Was it not a remarkable thing that a Member of the British Cabinet should have his interests looked after by the representatives of the Irish Benches? [*Laughter.*] The Duke was in the position of being a member of the Cabinet, and he could not say a word to defend his own interests against the Treasury, because his interests were those of the locality, and because he had practically made the line. One proposal was to sell the line to the Great Western Railway of England, and another proposal was to sell it to another English company which consisted of the Town Clerk of Birmingham, behind whom was the London and North Western Railway Company, and the generosity of the Town Clerk was shown in the promotion of a Bill on which the name of the Secretary to the Treasury figured in large print to deprive the local pilots of Wexford of their pilotage fees All these things had been done behind the backs of the Irish representatives. The Government urged that they were anxious for the interest of the locality. If he thought that the Town Clerk of Birmingham and his friends had a real plan for making a harbour at Rosslare and giving a live end to the Rossmore line he would support the scheme provided they did not get the £14,000 which the ratepayers of County Waterford had hitherto been paying. But under the Act passed 23 years ago the £14,000 a year which the taxpayers of Waterford had been paying would be handed over to the Town Clerk of Birmingham and his friends to further this scheme. It would be better to hand the line over to the Duke of Devonshire and the people of the locality. The least they could expect from the Chief Secretary was that he should act in the position of Devil's Advocate for Ireland against the Treasury; the right hon. Gentleman's point of view should be the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary to the Treasury. The right hon. Gentleman's point of view should be the Irish point of view, and he should try to make the most for his clients. If it was felt that Ireland was a kind of Old Man of the Sea on the back of this country he prayed the Government to lay down the burden. The Irish representatives would take over the country as a going concern. England had governed Ireland for 700 years, and except the erection of poorhouses, police barracks, and lunatic asylums he did not know what England had to show as the result of her government.

MR. SERJEANT HEMPHILL (Tyrone, N.) said that this subject was of considerable interest to Ireland, and the incidents described by his hon. and learned Friend had created much hardship to the ratepayers of the district. Twenty-three years ago this extraordinary Act of Parliament was run through Parliament, and the effect of it was that a charge of £14,000 a year for 35 years had been imposed on the ratepayers of the county and city in proportion to the particular district through which the line ran. The ratepayers had to pay 5 per cent. on the money advanced. A few years ago when he was on the Leinster Circuit he had on one ocasion to make an application to the Judge not to permit the Grand Jury to refuse to pass a presentment of £6,000; but under the Act of Parliament the Judge had to decide that the Grand Jury of the City had no option in the matter, and if they did not choose to pass the presentment the Judge had power to order the money to be paid; and he ordered accordingly. Thus from year to year this state of things had been going on, and he urged that it was important to see to whom this line was to be disposed. He remembered that some years ago there was a scheme for connecting Rosslare with Wexford by rail and connecting Rosslare with Milford by a line of steamers. That scheme was strenuously advocated by himself as counsel for the promoters, with the assistance of his learned Friend Mr. Healy, and the right hon. and learned Gentleman the Member for the University of Dublin (he thought) as strenuously opposed it.

MR. CARSON: I have forgotten all about it.

MR. SERJEANT HEMPHILL said his own memory was rather better. The right hon. and learned Gentleman, he recollected, demonstrated that the line would be a failure, and that Wexford would be exactly in the same position as the poor city and county of Waterford; and the Grand Jury very wisely refused to guarantee the line. Now it was suggested that this Waterford, Dungarvon and Lismore Railway was to be sold to some company connected with Birmingham, who would probably run a line to Milford and connect with Rosslare by water. But when they got to Rosslare they would have to get this line through to Wexford; and they would find the same difficulties which the engineers at the time of which he had spoken demonstrated to the Grand Jury of Wexford. They proved that the thing could not be done in effect, and if this bargain was carried out, the result would be that this wretched railway would continue to be the failure it had hitherto been, and the ratepayers would have to be paying 5 per cent. for the next fifteen years or whatever the time might be. He trusted that the right hon. Gentleman who had the conduct of Treasury matters in that House, would take all these things into consideration; and he hoped, whatever was done, that the line would not be disposed of in such a manner as to leave no chance of relieving the ratepayers. That was his sole object in troubling the House. If the line were put up to public competition, it might be purchased by some company who would be able to work it to advantage. But in the meantime, he hoped that the Treasury would not press forward matters in such a way as to render it hopeless for the ratepayers to get rid of this great burden. ["Hear, hear."] There was another matter to which he desired to refer, if it was in order upon this Vote. It was a matter connected with the Richmond District Lunatic Asylum at Dublin. No doubt the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary to the Treasury had had his attention called to it. The Richmond District Lunatic Asylum was a most important institution, for it was the asylum for the city of Dublin, the county town of Drogheda, and the counties of Dublin, Wicklow, and Louth, all of which districts contributed in proportion to their population. It was an admitted fact that the building was quite inadequate for the number of lunatics sent there. In fact, the overcrowding was becoming a crying grievance, the excess of occupants over accommodation being something startling. The Board of Control or managers of the Asylum had lately bought a site in the neighbourhood of Dublin as a sort of auxiliary asylum, and they were also contracting to erect a very extensive building on the site, the cost of which would amount altogether to very nearly £200,000. For that purpose of course it was necessary that they should raise money. Last year the Board of Control had to contract (for the purpose of building from time to time) a loan from the Treasury amounting to some £78,000 odd. Under a recent Act the Board of Control could go into the public market and get loans on better terms than they could get from the British Exchequer, because under the Local Loans Act the Exchequer were requiring 3½ per cent. interest, whereas in the present state of the money market with Consols at 2¾, it was obvious much better terms could be obtained. What happened? They wanted to redeem the Treasury loan, and they accordingly applied to the Board of Works to ascertain what sum would be required. The Board of Works informed them that, taking the Local Loan Stock at its present price of £114, the sum of £89,613 6s. 11d. would be required to redeem the debt of £78,000. That meant, in other words, that in order to get rid of this debt to the Treasury and go into the open market the Board of Control would have to pay what would be in the nature of a fine of £11,000 if they wanted to raise money at a lower rate of interest. He wished particularly to call the attention of his right hon. Friend to that matter in the hope that he would be able to see his way to accept the £78,000 at par, and not make this profit of £11,000 at the cost of the ratepayers of Dublin and the other contributory counties.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford) wished to put the main facts of the Waterford and Dungarvan Railway clearly before the House. The railway, constructed under a guarantee given on behalf of the ratepayers, was worked in such a way that the ratepayers were liable to an annual payment of £14,000. They had thus already paid over £300,000, and were liable for £250,000 more. The line also owed the Duke of Devonshire between £70,000 and £80,000, and the Treasury something like £93,000. A short time ago it became known by a mere chance that the Treasury were about to foreclose, dismiss the directors, and take the management into their own hands, and sell the line. As soon as this became known a strong opposition developed, and the Treasury were induced to postpone action until the people of the locality had time to consider the matter. During the Easter recess the question was considered by the ratepayers and the directors, and a proposal was made to the Treasury which he thought an admirable one, and one that ought to have been accepted on the spot. It was proposed that the ratepayers should in future have four representatives on the board of directors to five representing the shareholders. The Duke of Devonshire offered to forego the whole of his £70,000 on the understanding that the Treasury would also forego their debt, as they had done in innumerable cases in other parts of Ireland. The result of this would have been to relieve the ratepayers to the extent of £2,500 or £3,000 a year. There was a further arrangement that at the end of the period covered by the guarantee one-half of the profits of the line should go to the ratepayers only, one-half to the shareholders. The scheme was universally approved in the locality. The only difficulty was with the Treasury; and although the Duke of Devonshire—who had spent a quarter of a million in the locality—was willing to forego his £70,000, the Treasury refused to forego their £93,000, and their refusal was of the most decided character. Their action was niggardly and unwise. He understood that the Treasury had not only decided absolutely to refuse the scheme, but were negotiating for the sale of the line to another company. The shareholders was one in which the rate-shareholders was one in which the ratepayers of the city and county would derive large and immediate relief from this enormous tax, and in any scheme for the sale of the line the relief of the ratepayers must be a leading feature. He joined in what had been said by the hon. Member for Waterford County, that there was a great deal of needless secresy about the proceedings which was offensive and unjust to the people most interested, the ratepayers, who had already paid three times as much as was due to the Treasury and were still liable for twice as much as was due. Was it not monstrous that the whole future of the property should be bargained away by the Treasury behind the backs of the ratepayers who had paid this enormous sum, and were liable still? The Grand Jury of the County of Waterford had passed the following resolution:—

> "Before any decision is made by the Treasury the public should be informed as to the proposals of the various railways offering to acquire the line, so that the county and city of Waterford may be enabled to express opinions on the subject."

The City Grand Jury had also resolved that—

> "This Grand Jury, representative of the ratepayers of the city of Waterford, views with indignation the grasping and selfish attitude adopted by the Treasury relative to the W.D.L.R. The ratepayers of this city and county have already paid more than three times, and are still liable for more than twice, the amount advanced by the Treasury. The ratepayers are, therefore, by far the largest creditors, and their interests should receive the first and fullest consideration. We, therefore, demand that no sale or transfer of the line be made until the views of the ratepayers have been ascertained. We refuse to recognise that Mr. Hanbury has any moral or equitable right to be sole arbiter of this, to us, vitally important matter, and we urgently request the assistance of all Irish Members to resist and defeat the arrangement by which the Treasury proposes to sell the line without competition

to a group of English financiers and professional company promoters totally ignorant of the views and interests of those most deeply affected."

In addition to these telegrams, he had received numerous others from important representative gentlemen in the City and County of Waterford, protesting against any sale whatever behind the backs of the ratepayers. Of the relative merits of the two schemes of sale he was not able to speak, because he did not know anything about them. But in the City of Waterford, the feeling was strong against the sale to the Rosslare Company, and as between the two schemes of sale Waterford would favour the scheme for sale to the Great Western. The interest of the Great Western would be to promote the trade of Waterford, but the interests of the other company would naturally be to transfer trade to the new port of Rosslare. What he complained of was that those most interested were kept in the dark. The Secretary to the Treasury told an influential deputation which waited upon him on this subject that he was anxious to consult the views and safeguard the interests of the localities concerned. But how was it that those who represented these localities were absolutely in the dark as to the terms. If the right hon. Gentleman could not state them publicly, let him do so privately. He asked him to reconsider his rejection of the scheme of the directors and shareholders of the company and the ratepayers. If he still maintained his former attitude, he (the hon. Member) claimed that before any sale took place the localities and their representatives should have an opportunity of considering the terms and expressing an opinion upon it. This might be the last opportunity of raising the question on the Estimates. An opportunity would be available on the Appropriation Bill, and he hoped that before the Appropriation Bill the Secretary to the Treasury would give full information of the details of the schemes, and not come to any decision upon them until there had been an opportunity of discussing them in this House. If the negotiations would continue to the end of the Session and the Secretary to the Treasury did not expect to be in a position to discuss them on the Appropriation Bill, he asked the right hon. Gentleman to promise, before coming to a decision when the Session was closed, that he would consult, in Ireland or in London the Members representing the various districts concerned, and such leading gentlemen from the localities as they might desire to bring with them. It would be monstrous if, after the Session was over, the sale of this property was effected to one of these English companies without consulting the representatives of the people most largely interested.

*THE SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. R. W. HANBURY, Preston) said he would first of all reply to the question raised with regard to the loans made to the Richmond Lunatic Asylum. There were general rules fixed with regard to the repayment of all such loans, and those rules applied more severely in England than in Ireland. The authorities of the Asylum had power to borrow in the open market, but they found they could obtain better terms from the Treasury, and were anxious to borrow from it accordingly. The rule was that every £100 borrowed should be repaid at the market price of the Local Loans Stock, which was now about £113. But the Treasury were considering whether to allow the Asylum Board to borrow for a short period and repay at the rate of £100 instead of £113, and that he thought would be considerate treatment. With regard to the remarks of the hon. Member for South-east Cork respecting Kinsale Harbour, no doubt the estimate for the contract was largely exceeded, partly owing to the fact that the local land owners required more for their land than originally estimated, and partly owing to the subsequent failure of the contractor. There were several ways of dealing with this matter. In the first place there arose the question of the reduction of the rate of interest, and upon that he might say that he thought there was some possibility of introducing a Bill dealing with local loans during the present Session, by which it was possible that some relief might be given. He also admitted that there was something to be said for a reduction in the amount of the loan; but he was under the impression that the Kinsale Town Commissioners were desirous to avoid all responsibility. If the Town

Commissioners were ready to meet the Treasury as the Treasury was ready to meet them, the difficulty would to a great extent be got over; but the Treasury did not want to deal with a body of Commissioners who desired to shirk their legal responsibility. With regard to the question of the Waterford and Dungarvan Railway there were, as he understood it, two distinct issues. The first was, ought the Government to forego its loan altogether, and secondly, if not, what was the best thing to be done in regard to the loan. He had already announced that the Government were not willing to forego the loan, though they might be willing to forego the large amount of accumulated interest, which amounted to an extra £30,000 or £35,000. It had been said that they ought to forego the loan in the interest of the ratepayers of the district, and the hon. Member for Louth referred to the fact that some twenty-three years ago the scheme for this line was rushed through Parliament. There was a great deal of truth in the hon. Member's account of the history of that Measure, but the House must recollect that when this large loan was made to this Company, one of the elements for the consideration of the Treasury was that the guarantee under the Act was assured by the ratepayers of the district.

MR. T. M. HEALY: Only for the interest.

*MR. HANBURY said that might be true, but he thought that would go towards the repayment of the Government interest.

MR. T. M. HEALY: That is contrary to the fact.

*MR. HANBURY said that after all the Treasury had not made this a matter of pounds, shillings, and pence. It should be remembered that they had a very good offer indeed from an Irish Company, the Great Southern and Western, which was many thousands higher than anything they were likely to get from an English Company; but that offer they refused simply in the interest of the locality. One would have gathered from one or two speeches that had been made that the amounts hitherto paid had gone into the Imperial Exchequer.

MR. SERJEANT HEMPHILL: I did not mean to convey that.

*MR. HANBURY: No; but anybody not conversant with the facts would have thought so. After all, why should this amount be totally or even partially remitted? Parliament had drawn a distinct line between the various districts in Ireland which ought, and which ought not to receive a free grant for railways, and this district was not one which ought to receive direct support from the Treasury in that way. The ratepayers gave a guarantee in the interest of the locality because they thought that the district would be greatly benefited by having a good line running through it. What was wanted in this district was efficient management, and a thoroughly good line running through it. Nothing had yet been concluded, and he had always promised that nothing should be concluded until he was able to put himself in communication with those Members principally interested. Two classes had to be considered in this matter, the Imperial taxpayer and the local ratepayer, and they ought, in his opinion, to be considered *pari passu*. The Treasury had already to a great extent foregone the interest of the Imperial taxpayer by refusing a very high offer for this line. He did not think it was right to state the exact figure of the offer, but it was £20,000 or £30,000 more than they were likely to get anywhere else. Up to a few days ago the only other Company tendering was the Rosslare Company. They hoped to get Parliamentary powers to make a line running through from Rosslare to Cork, which would be of enormous benefit to the district. Against that there was the fact that that line would be very unpopular in Waterford. A few days ago the Great Western Company approached the Treasury with the object of being allowed to tender—not for purchasing the line, for the Treasury had never proposed to sell it, lock, stock, and barrel, but for purchasing the Treasury's interest in the line, by which neither the shareholders nor the ratepayers would be in a worse position in the future than they were now in. His idea was that as regarded a sale, the ratepayers would be greatly better off. The position then was this. He felt that it was very necessary that there should be as much competition in this matter as possible, and he was very glad when a second company came in, and at once agreed that no definite offer should be accepted up to Thursday morning next, so that both companies should have an opportunity of tendering. He felt that it was not very likely that, so far as the interest of the Imperial taxpayer was concerned, there would be any great difference between the offers of the two companies. Therefore they were left with only the interest of the locality to consider. Even in the locality there were contending interests to consider. There was the whole county of Wexford to consider, and the district through which the line would run, whose interests would directly clash with the City of Waterford; but he felt that in a matter of this sort, when one of the chief interests at issue was the interest of the locality, the Treasury ought to do as much as they could to gauge the views of the locality, and he would be perfectly willing to put himself in communication with those who represented the ratepayers, or those Members who represented the locality. He should not feel himself bound by their opinion, but he would consult them very fully in the matter, so that by concerted action they might be able to arrive at a decision which would be the best for the locality. He need hardly say that the opinion of the Duke of Devonshire in his character not only of a large shareholder, but as one who had behaved very handsomely with regard to the Lismore line, would carry great weight.

Mr. J. REDMOND asked whether the Members representing the localities interested would have an opportunity of consulting with the right hon. Gentleman and of hearing what the rival schemes were. He also wished to know whether he could bring with him one or two gentlemen from Waterford who would put before the right hon. Gentleman the views of the ratepayers?

*Mr. HANBURY promised that as soon as the final tenders had been received, he would communicate with hon. Members connected with the district. He would be glad to hear their views and also the views of other gentlemen as the hon. Member suggested.

Mr. T. M. HEALY observed that the right hon. Gentleman had said that he only intended to sell the Treasury interest in the line, but surely anyone who bought that interest would be able to sell the line as a whole, and whether the Government sold the line or the incoming mortgagee sold it was pretty much the same thing. The whole transaction demanded careful consideration, and there was no reason why the business should be carried through with such dispatch. When a tender had been accepted it would be necessary for the successful company to come to Parliament, and of course a Bill could not be passed for the purposes of the line this Session. Any scheme would probably be opposed, so that the Parliamentary proceedings could not be disposed of at once. He thought they were entitled to know who were the capitalists who were going to finance the Rosslare project. He remembered how, after a private Bill passed through the House some five or six years ago, the scheme which it sanctioned broke down for want of capital. Before the line now under consideration was sold, they ought to be certain that the people who wished to acquire it were in a position to do all that ought to be done in the interest of the locality concerned. Who constituted the Rosslare Company, and what was the amount of their capital? There was no reason that he could see why this transaction should be concluded by Thursday next.

Mr. HORACE PLUNKETT (Dublin County, S.) also declared that there was no reason why the transaction should be pushed forward as an urgent matter, and pointed out that deliberation was desirable, because the whole railway system of the south of Ireland might be affected by the scheme sanctioned by the Treasury. The Dublin, Wicklow, and Wexford Railway Company were promoting a line which might be seriously damaged by this Rosslare project, and an opportunity ought to be given to the company's representatives to be heard. In regard to the policy of the Government respecting loans for railways in Ireland, he had understood his right hon. Friend to say that Parliament had drawn a broad line of distinction between congested districts and districts which were not congested, and that loans which could be made in the case of the former could not be made in the case of the latter. But he believed that Parliament departed from that principle last year, when half a million was advanced. Did not Parliament then refuse to restrict the application of the money to congested districts?

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR explained that the principle was that in congested districts it was open to the Government to advance the whole of the money that was required, while in uncongested districts half the amount was the maximum that could be advanced.

Major JAMESON (Clare, W.) suggested that it would be well to defer the Rosslare scheme until the promised local councils should have been set up in Ireland.

*Mr. HANBURY explained that he had not said that the whole transaction would be completed by Thursday next. What he had said was that two rival lines were going to tender, and that their tenders must be sent in by Thursday morning. The tenders would be considered at once, but some time must be devoted to consulting the wishes of hon. Members who represented the localities concerned. It was never contemplated that the whole thing should be disposed of next week.

Mr. POWER being dissatisfied with the arrangement, moved to reduce the Vote by £1,000.

Question put, "That a sum, not exceeding £25,247, be granted for the said Service."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 90; Noes, 177.—(Division List, No. 288.)

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR said he undertook, when this Vote was under discussion, to make a statement respecting the application of the funds provided by the Railways Act of Ireland last year. He might say at once that, although he was not responsible for this Vote, the Irish Government took the whole responsibility for the application of these funds. The responsibility had been placed on the Irish Government, to a very large extent, by the Acts of Parliament, because the Treasury could not move in connection with any scheme, or make any advance, until the scheme had been first certified by the Lord Lieutenant. Prior to 1889 the Railways (Ireland) Acts applied indiscriminately to all parts of Ireland. The Act of 1889 made a new departure in this respect, for under that Act a grant could not be made except in the case of a light railway which was declared by the Lord Lieutenant to be desirable for the purpose of developing fishing or other industries. Similar conditions were laid down in the Act of last year, with one rather important difference—that the Lord Lieutenant, before any steps were taken for granting State aid to any railway scheme, had to certify to the Treasury that the making of the railway under the Act was necessary for the development of the resources of the district. They had deliberately substituted the word "resources" because they foresaw that it would be desirable to open up various tracts of country, not alone for developing the industries of the district, but also for developing the tourist traffic. The second condition which the Act of 1889 contained was also repeated in the Act of 1896, and was to the effect that the Lord Lieutenant in certifying to the Treasury must certify that owing to the exceptional circumstances of the district the railway could not be constructed without special assistance from the State. The limit of the Treasury grant was fixed in one direction by the fact that an existing railway company must agree to work and maintain the line before an advance was made. The limit on the other side was fixed by the condition that the Lord Lieutenant is not to certify a railway under the Act except it was necessary for the development of the resources of the district and unless owing to the poverty of the district the railway could be constructed without special assistance. It would, therefore, be seen that in the case of a district sufficiently prosperous to provide the railway itself, or in the case of an enterprise of so hazardous a nature that no railway company would agree to work and maintain it, the Treasury would be unable to advance money under the Act. There was an important and novel clause introduced by the Govennment into the Act of last year, by which advances could be made, not merely in the case of a railway, but also in the case of a steamboat line or for establishing communications by means of coaches, cars, or other vehicles. The Irish Office had taken very considerable advantage of that provision in the proposals they had made to the Treasury. The only railway scheme that had yet received the approval of the grand jury was that of a narrow gauge railway from Buncrana to Carndonagh in the county of Donegal, a distance of 18½ miles. The grand jury of Donegal had made a presentment for £5,000 in aid of that line, which represented the assistance required under the Act to be given by the landowners and local authorities interested in the line. The Lough Swilly Company had agreed to work and maintain the railway free of cost to the county; but, of course, under the provisions of the Act, if the railway company became bankrupt the working of the line would fall upon the county. The railway ran almost wholly through a congested district, and he believed it would be of great service in promoting the cottage industries of that district. In addition to this railway the Government had also laid proposals before the grand jury of Donegal for the construction of a railway between Letterkenny and Burtonport, a distance of 50 miles. South Donegal had already been amply provided with railways under the Act of 1889, and this line, which he trusted the Grand Jury would see their way to approve of, would serve the northern and western part of the county, which had hitherto received no assistance in that way. In addition to those proposals the Government had, at an earlier period, offered to provide the funds for the construction of a line from Ennis to Scariff, and also to restore the derelict line between Portumna and Parsonstown. Unfortunately the Clare Grand Jury had refused to make a presentment in the case of the first railway, and it had fallen through; and as neither the landowners in the district between Portumna and Parsonstown nor the Great Southern Railway Company were prepared to find the balance necessary for the reconstruction of the second line that also had fallen through. That represented the railway portion of the scheme of the Government. Coming to the steamer portion of the scheme, the Government proposed to subsidise a steamer communication on the Shannon between Killaloe, in the county of Clare, to Dromod, in the county of Leitrim, a distance of over a hundred miles. This communication would be for passengers only, and would of course be principally of use in promoting tourist traffic; but it was an exceedingly convenient line of communication, as it cut all lines of railway passing from east to west, and increased very largely communication in the centre of Ireland. It did not come into competition with existing lines, which was always a matter that was most carefully attended to in any scheme put forward by the Government. This line was to be run by a company who would provide the steamers and also intended to build hotels at Dromod, Killaloe, and at other convenient points on the route. The service would commence on August 1st. The subsidy of the Government would last for seven years, and it was provided that the service of steamers was to last for 12 years. In regard to both coaches and steamers the Government had invariably adopted the principle of subsidy. The Government hoped that the lines of service which they proposed to help for a considerable number of years would ultimately become self-supporting; and if not they should at all events know at the end of the seven years whether it was worth while to continue such services. The Government also proposed to provide steamer communication from the terminus of the Midland Great Western Railway at Achill Sound across Black-sod Bay to Belmullet. It was, however, possible that owing to certain difficulties they might not be able to carry out that scheme, and if so they would fall back upon a steamer service between Sligo and Belmullet. The people of Belmullet not unnaturally were anxious for a railway from Achill Sound, Killala, or Ballina to Belmullet; but the cost of constructing such a railway would be too great, and it was very questionable besides whether it could be made to pay. The cost of the steamer communication would not be one-fourth the cost of the construction of the railway; and besides they did not find the Midland Great Western Railway Company prepared to say that if the Government constructed and equipped such a line they would work and maintain it in perpetuity. He himself was strongly of opinion that even with a free construction it would have been impossible to have worked the line without a subsidy, and a subsidy in addition to free construction was not permitted by the terms of the Act. The distress which had unfortunately prevailed in the Belmullet district the Government had endeavoured to meet to some extent by beginning already with the pier and the approaches necessary in the immediate neighbourhood of Belmullet, and even if the original scheme were not carried out as he hoped it would be—in any case the labour expended upon this work would not be wholly wasted. In addition to the two steamer services he had mentioned, the Government also proposed to subsidise a steamer service for seven years, between Tarbert and Kilrush, at the mouth of the Shannon, and this last proposal was really part of the larger proposal to open up to tourist traffic the whole of the western part of Clare. From Killarney to Listowel there was already a railway, and it was proposed to establish a coach service between Listowel and Tarbert, a distance of 12 miles, running in connection with the principal trains from Killarney, and a steamer running from Tarbert Pier to Kilrush on the West Clare Railway. He ought rather to correct this statement, for the service was actually in existence, having been started on June 1. There was already a service of coaches to Lisdoonvarna, and at Lisdoonvarna it was proposed to establish a line of coaches to Ballyvaughan. There was at present between Ballyvaughan and Galway a steamboat service running two or three times a week, and the coaches between Lisdoonvarna and Ballyvaughan would run in connection with that service. There would thus be opened up a route all the way from Killarney to Connemara, either by steamer, by rail, or by coach; and he should hope as the district was an extremely tranquil one, that this would be the means of attracting a large number of tourists from this country who might be induced to leave their money there and carry away with them pleasant recollections of their experience. [*Laughter and* "Hear, hear!"] The hon. and learned Member for North Louth had asked him whether he could state the sum it was proposed to advance in connection with these schemes. For the reasons he had explained, it would be inexpedient to do that, but he might mention that the total expense of all the schemes he had outlined would be something short of the £500,000 which Parliament provided in the Act last year. Of course it was necessary to leave a margin for safety, and he believed they had left one which would prove sufficient. He trusted that when they came actually to carry the schemes to completion they might still find they had got a few thousands of pounds over which they could use for some other purpose. ["Hear, hear!"]

MR. T. M. HEALY: Has the money been bearing interest ever since?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR replied that it did not bear interest under the terms of the Act, because it was not advanced by the Treasury until the necessity actually occurred, and he did not suppose it was in fact raised until the necessity actually occurred. He trusted the scheme he had explained to the Committee would be regarded as satisfactory by hon. Members representing Ireland. ["Hear, hear!"] He had done his best to pick out the most useful schemes he could. He had been over most of the ground himself, and he had spared no pains to come to the wisest conclusion he could. [*Cheers.*] Whether he had succeeded or not was another matter, and it only remained for him to express his appreciation of the co-operation which he had met with at the hands of the chairman and officers of the Board of Trade, and the great energy and ability which they had brought to the carrying out of the very heavy additional labours which this Act had thrown upon them. [*Cheers.*]

MR. T. M. HEALY was quite sure the right hon. Gentleman had done his best in the matter, and the complaint he had to make was not as to the mode in which the money had been expended, but that two or three things had been left undone. There was, for instance, a necessity for completing the little bit of a canal from Lough Mask to Bullinrobe in the county Mayo, which would be the means of opening up a district of the most picturesque character, and would also for a comparatively trifling expenditure bring the population of that district within touch of the railway system. Considerable work had been done in the way of making a quay and so on, and the amount required to carry the work to completion would be very small. He thought the Government ought to undertake to finish the project, and expressed the opinion that on a true construction of the Act of last year, they had the power to do so. He thought the whole of the steamer proposals were excellent, and would be productive of great benefit. Dealing with the fact that the whole of the railway work had been confined to one particular district of the country, he fully admitted that Donegal, with its poor population, was entitled to the utmost consideration, and he had not one word to say against spending the whole of the money for railway construction in that county. He hoped, however, the Government would, upon some other occasion, see their way to consider the condition of the poor people of Belmullet, and have a railway constructed there which would benefit them far more than the steamer service. He quite agreed that a broad-gauge railway would probably not pay even if constructed free, but a narrow-gauge railway, in the construction of which the people of the district could take a part would, once made, at all events, pay expenses. ["Hear, hear!"]

Mr. T. D. SULLIVAN (Donegal, W.) fully appreciated the spirit of the proposals of the Government in the schemes which had been laid before the Committee. He felt that, to some extent, they were exceptional, and that similar proposals were not made to the House in reference to other portions of Great Britain. But the case of Ireland was exceptional. Every man acquainted with the history of Great Britain and Ireland knew that the latter country had been kept back in the race of prosperity and civilisation, and now, when more liberal ideas were beginning to obtain, Ireland was entitled to exceptional treatment in these matters. Such was his plea, and this was justification for any proposal of an exceptional nature in regard to Irish affairs which might now be placed before the House of Commons. Donegal was one of the most backward, most necessitous, parts of Ireland, and was entitled to exceptionally generous treatment at the hands of the House. He quite recognised that the present Government and the present Chief Secretary seemed to appreciate these facts and circumstances, and he tendered his thanks on behalf of the poor congested districts in the west of Ireland. If Ireland had a native Government these districts would receive exceptional treatment, and at last the House of Commons was beginning to recognise that it ought to do for Ireland what an Irish Government would do for its own people. As between schemes for mail steamers and railways and other projects he would say nothing, he declared no preference for one scheme more than for another, he simply maintained the broad principle that the west of Ireland in its necessitous condition had a claim for special treatment. He tendered his thanks to the Chief Secretary for the manner he proposed to deal with these poor districts, and he would do all he could to encourage and support the propositions of the Government.

Major JAMESON (Clare, W.) said, as his constituency was among those which would come in for a small portion of the good things promised by the Chief Secretary, he would like to say a few words on the subject. There was one proposition the right hon. Gentleman laid down in regard to the advances for making light railways he heard with regret. The limiting condition was practically this, that unless the Government could get another railway company to take up the light railway they would not advance the money for construction. He would like to point out to the Committee that why light railways could not be effective and economically constructed in Ireland was because the Irish railway gauge was 5 ft. 3 in. This gauge was fixed, as most Irish arrangements were by an English Parliamentary Committee sitting at Westminster, probably no better and no worse than those which sat in the present day, but the manner in which that Committee arrived at the Irish gauge was by striking an average between the broad and narrow gauges. So there was imposed on Ireland the 5 ft. 3 in. gauge, which would not allow of the trunk lines taking over the narrow-gauge trains. If the gauge had been fixed at 4 ft. 8½ in. it would have been perfectly possible to have made light railways of that gauge, and to have run the traffic directly on to the trunk lines, saving the cost, time, and labour of transhipment. The only objection that could be raised to that was that the weight of the engines used on the trunk lines would prevent these engines being used on the light railways, but that was not the case, for the rate of speed required on the light railways would not necessitate the same weight of engines as on the trunk lines. But it was held to be a necessary condition that unless a trunk line company would nurse the light railway, the Government advance on behalf of the poor congested districts would not be forthcoming. It was a hard condition to attach to the offer of assistance to improve means of communication in the congested districts. With regard to the running of steamers between Tarbert and Kilrush, he hoped the Chief Secretary would see his way to expenditure for the widening and deepening of Kilrush Harbour. Going down the Shannon from Kilrush to the mouth of the river, he, on the last occasion, saw 25 fishing smacks busily engaged in fishing, but none of them were Irish—23 were French and two were Welsh. A mine of wealth for the western counties of Ireland was lost for lack of a small part of the money England owed to Ireland. A small instalment expended on the construction of light railways would enable the hardy fishermen to find a market for fish, which now were often left to rot on the ground. He was not deprecating the benefits the Chief Secretary proposed to give, but he asked for more to repair the neglect of 97 years. In the only place where money had been advanced to build a fishing harbour, every shilling of the loan had been repaid; and that loan was made by a private benefactress, the Baroness Burdett-Coutts. If the Chief Secretary would see what he could do in this direction he would receive every assistance from the local authorities. He thanked the Chief Secretary for subsidising a steamboat service from Tarbert to Kilrush and acceding to the many earnest representations made to him on the subject. He was also obliged to him for having sent Government engineers to survey and report on the proposed deepening of Kilrush Harbour and the extension of the pier at Kilrush, and he urged the right hon. Gentleman to get this work completed. It was a work which would help the trade and the prosperity of what ought to be a flourishing commercial port, and it would be of great assistance in making the steamboat service the Government now subsidised thoroughly efficient. It would also make Kilrush one of the first ports in the west of Ireland for commercial purposes. He warned the Chief Secretary that the Waterford and Limerick Railway, by refusing to book through fares via Tarbert and Kilrush, were endeavouring to impair the good that would be done by the steamship service now subsidised by the Government from Tarbert to Kilrush, and this he believed was done in order to support the so-called Lower Shannon service, which had hitherto refused to help in the matter. There were two light railways, or rather two extensions of light railways, which he urgently desired to see made. One was from Kilkee to Carrigaholt, which would be of the greatest service to the fishing industry of West Clare, and the other from Ennistymon to Liscannor, which would be the making of the great slate industry at Liscannor, and be of great service to the poor and industrious fishermen of that place, while it would also help to increase the visits of tourists to the beautiful scenery of Ennistymon and neighbourhood. The right hon. Gentleman knew from personal inspection in his frequent visits to Ireland something of the wants of the people of West Clare. On the subject of the Ennis and Scariff railway—the promised money for which was lost by the packing of the Grand Jury—he urged upon the Government the importance of re-organising the Grand Jury system in Ireland, in order that such action might no longer be possible.

MR. J. G. BUTCHER (York) said that as a native of Kerry he had heard with the greatest pleasure that facilities were to be given for visiting that attractive county. He hoped that the right hon. Gentleman would take care that the fares charged on the subsidised steamboats and coaches were reasonable. The point mentioned by the hon. Member who spoke last, as to the Limerick and Waterford Railway, was well worthy of attention, as in the past that company had not given all those facilities for traffic which had been desired.

MR. VESEY KNOX (Londonderry) said that he had no reason to grumble at the programme of the Chief Secretary, which had been formulated in a generous spirit. There were reasons justifying the right hon. Gentleman in spending so much money in Donegal. That county was not encumbered much with the 5ft. 3in. gauge, as some other parts of Ireland. The results of the policy of the right hon. Member for North Leeds, when Chief Secretary, in constructing that considerable narrow-gauge system had amply justified the experiment. Then the shirt trade of Londonderry was in its social and economic effects one of the most useful of the few industries remaining in Ireland. It gave employment not only in the city, but to the women in every place in railway communication with Londonderry; and in that way it had done a great deal to prevent Donegal from becoming depopulated as rapidly as some other parts of Ireland. The railway extension proposed by the right hon. Gentleman would be very beneficial in increasing the employment in this trade; but he thought that the proposed route might be improved by a deviation by way of Dunfanaghy. Owing to the ease of construction that deviation would not materially increase the cost of the line. It was not so important in the case of these light railways to take the shortest route; the chief object was to open up the district and to bring the railway as near as possible to the largest number of persons. He was not to be understood as saying that the line would not be useful; he believed, on the contrary, it would be of the greatest advantage to Donegal and to the north-west, but in addition to the scheme which the Government were supporting there was another scheme for which a Bill had been passed, and the capital, as he believed, would be subscribed, and therefore indirectly they were helping themselves, while they freely and thankfully admitted the right hon. Gentleman was doing his best to help them.

Mr. DENIS KILBRIDE (Galway, N.) suggested that it was in the power of the Chief Secretary and the Secretary to the Treasury to do a great deal for his constituency, not by way of spending money, but by way of remission. He called attention to an item on page 196 of the Estimate—£200 for recovering by special agents of repayments in arrear. He believed that referred to proceedings taken for the purpose of recovery of taxes under the Sub-Drainage Acts.

Mr. Vesey Knox.

Now the Sub-Drainage Board constituted under the Act of 1878 consisted of 21 members, all of whom were members of the landlord class, the occupiers having no representation upon it whatever. He found that £45,000 of the total expenditure had been spent by this wholly non-representative body. Under the Act of 1886 the membership was increased to 28, thus giving the occupying elements, who were as much liable as the landlords were for the repayment, a representation of 7, 21 being still landlords and landlords' agents. One of the last Sub-Drainage Acts again altered the constitution of the Board, and indeed created a new Board, consisting of 14 landlords and 14 occupiers. He did not say that as regards the money expended by the joint Board, on which the occupiers had a moiety of the representation, he desired for any reduction at all in the interest on the money expended, or any increase in the number of years for repayment. But he maintained that as far as £90,000 was concerned, expended previously to the Act of 1889, it had been spent by a body from which the occupiers had been partially or wholly excluded. Nevertheless, when he looked at the award made by the Board of Public Works in determining the amount to be paid by the landlords and occupiers respectively, he found that they had divided the sum almost equally between them—namely, occupiers £3,013, and owners £3,189. The Government had been obliged to set on foot 500 or 600 prosecutions for the recovery of the money, but he took leave to doubt whether they would ever be able to recover it, because it was irrecoverable—not because the people were dishonest, but because they felt they had received no corresponding benefit, and further, because they felt they had had nothing to do with the making of the guarantee. He could not understand by what system the Board of Works arrived at this division of liability. But what he directed the attention of the Chief Secretary to was this, that in the case of men who were leaseholders at the time of the passage of the Act, these leaseholders, if they held for a term longer than 21 years, became liable both as occupiers and proprietors. There was the case of a man who was in this position, and who was charged a sum almost amounting to as much as the judicial rent. There were many grave cases of hardship that had occurred in this connection, and where the money charged to the tenant was entirely out of proportion to any benefit his land had received. There was the case of Thomas Scott, who was charged £2 5s. 8d. a year for the improvement of ten acres of his land. He had been over the whole of this holding, and he fearlessly asserted that nothing like ten acres could be improved by the drainage of the River Suck. As a matter of fact, his land had not been benefited by the drainage of the river. His land, which used to be flooded in winter time, was now never flooded, and there were consequently none of the deposits on the land which used to be left after a flood. As a result, his grass was now not so long or so succulent as it used to be. He had been struck with the extraordinary ability of the gentlemen who made the estimates to appraise the improvement which had taken place in the land almost to a penny. There was the case of John Tiernan, who had to appear under a civil bill for the sum of 6d., which was the estimated value of the improvement to his land by the drainage. It appeared to him a peculiar amount for the Government to proceed for, and it also showed to him that the gentlemen who made the estimate had a nicer sense of the improvement of the land than any other man he had come across in all his life. It was also open to the suggestion that the Government, having advanced so much money for the drainage of the Suck, had come to the conclusion that they must apportion the amount over the drainage area irrespective of whether the land was improved or not. He asked the Chief Secretary to get some one who knew the value of land in Ireland—the Court valuers or Land Sub-Commissioners—to walk over the whole of this land to test whether his statement were true or not, that many of the lands charged with a considerable amount of money for improvement had not benefited to the amount charged, and, in some cases, had not benefited at all. Did they mean to tell him that five or six hundred poor Irish tenants were going to allow themselves to be decreed and seized upon by the Sheriff in respect of this money? It was said that there was a combination against the payment of these Estimates. The reason of the combination was that the tenants did not receive any corresponding benefit for the money they were charged, and that was why they refused—he said rightly—to pay. It was unworthy of this Government, which was spending so much money in other parts of Ireland for the development of its resources and the relief of the poor and congested districts of the country, to have their agents and their bailiffs running about gathering up the few pounds that remained of this £3,167. They had issued 500 civil bill decrees against the occupiers, but how many had they issued against the owners? The right hon. Gentleman told him some time ago, in reply to a question, that the whole of the owners' liability was not paid, and he wanted to know why they were not proceeded against as well as the occupiers? They all knew that the owners were supporters of the right hon. Gentleman and the Government; and the Treasury had proceeded against the occupiers because they were opponents of the Government and supporters of those who sat on those Benches. He wanted to ask the Secretary to the Treasury to remember that £90,000 of this money was expended prior to the time that the occupiers had any representative element on the Board, and that they had no voice in the imposition of the money from which they received no corresponding benefit. This was a matter which was well worthy of the attention of the Chief Secretary as well as the Treasury, and he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would be able to see his way to relieve these people from the excessive charge from which they honestly believed they were suffering. He would ask the right hon. Gentleman to pay special attention to this matter, otherwise he would have in the coming winter, what he had last autumn, last winter, and last spring—the people in revolt against this extortionate charge of the Government.

MR. SERJEANT HEMPHILL said there was only one point on which he should like some information from the Chief Secretary. In the course of the speech in which he so fairly and lucidly unfolded his scheme to the Committee, he stated that he was not prepared to spend the entire sum of £500,000 because he alleged it would be necessary to keep in reserve a certain portion for contingencies. As he read the Act of Parliament the bounty of the Government was not at all limited to £500,000, because the section said that—

> "the total amount advanced by the Treasury under this Act shall not at any one time exceed £500,000."

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR (who was indistinctly heard) was understood to say that the Bill as drafted contemplated the possibility not merely of free grants from the Treasury, but also further grants in the way of loans which should be repaid. As a matter of fact, he did not propose to make any loans, and the particular passage in the Act to which the right hon. Gentleman was calling attention had in view of the possibility of loans being made and repaid. The whole of the money proposed to be distributed would be in the nature of free grants.

Mr. Serjeant HEMPHILL said this section dealt with advances, and he thought the fair meaning of it was that the total amount advanced by the Treasury should not at any one time exceed £500,000, but that next year or the year after a supplementary scheme might be framed and a further sum of £500,000 awarded by the Treasury.

Mr. MICHAEL DAVITT (Mayo, S.) referred to the hopeful promise which had been made by the Chief Secretary, with reference to the small scheme for opening up Lough Mask. He understood that the scheme was now under the consideration of the Irish Government. He had recently visited this portion of his constituency, and he found that all parties were anxious that the scheme should not be indefinitely postponed. Many of his constituents had stated that in order to take their live stock to the market, the journey very often took from Saturday to Monday morning. If, however, the scheme could be carried out, and flat-bottomed boats were placed on Lough Mask, the journey could be performed in three or four hours. No one in the locality was opposed to the scheme, and he trusted that the Chief Secretary would continue to give his sympathetic consideration to it. The scheme would also open up the country to tourists.

Mr. W. O'MALLEY (Galway, Connemara) said, that although there was a railway from Galway to Clifden it was to a large extent useless. The railway assisted, no doubt, the development of the tourist traffic, but the only industry which could be developed was the fishing industry. To a large extent the railway was almost useless for that purpose. During the last two or three years the seas round Connemara had been teeming with fish, but a half or two-thirds of the fish were lost owing to the fact that they could not be conveyed to the railway station at Clifden. It was thus absolutely necessary that a harbour should be constructed at Clifden which would allow fishing boats to enter and so reach the railway terminus.

Mr. JOHN DILLON (Mayo, E.): referred to the question of sub-drainage and the very great hardship inflicted on the poor occupiers in Galway and Roscommon in connexion with the charge for the work. He called attention to what he described as an extraordinary passage in the report of 1895–96 of the Irish Board of Works in which it was stated that "in most cases it is clear that there was a deliberate, and in many cases a combined, attempt to evade payment." This was another piece of evidence showing that the various public bodies, including the Irish judges on occasions, did not understand the proper sphere of their functions in Ireland. He next called attention to a civil bill in which the Irish Attorney General sued a tenant for 6d. as his amount of liability, 1s. being added for the Receiver's fee. He thought that the Irish Attorney General ought to be summoned before the Select Committee on Money-lending to explain the procedure of the Irish Board of Works. Some of the evidence given before that Committee was no worse than the proceedings disclosed in this document. He quoted another document in which a man was sued for a debt of 10s. 5d. The actual debt of the man was 2s. 8d. —["Oh, oh!"]—but 6s. 9d. for costs and 1s. for a certificate had been added. In order to recover 2s. 8d. the Government would, in all probability, spend £30 or £40 in the employment of police. That was a fair sample of the method of government in Ireland. In the case of many of the farms, the money was not honestly due, because no value had been added to the land by the drainage. Many of the farms were charged either in respect of land that had not been improved at all, or in respect of land that had not been improved nearly to the extent of the charge laid upon it. They were entitled to know before they were called upon to vote this £200 what the nature of these special proceedings was, who was the special agent employed, what was the present condition of affairs with regard to the proceedings, and also what machinery the Board of Works made use of in determining the addition to the value of the land when they were estimating the charges to be made on the various farms. So much for the question of sub-drainage. As to the question of the general administration and constitution of the Board of Works, the first item in the Estimate which struck him as remarkable was the monstrous, bloated, and indefensible salary of the present chairman of the Board. For many years the salary attaching to the chairmanship was £1,500, but for the last two years they had been called upon to vote £2,500. The Committee were entitled to a full explanation of this unexampled increase. The present chairman was a Scotchman, and formerly the manager of a railway. He could not see that because a man was a successful manager of a railway he would be a good chairman of the Board of Works, especially seeing that the Board had very little to do with the management of railways. If he were asked what were the two most important departments of the Board he should reply the engineer's and the architect's—["hear, hear!"]—and yet neither the chairman nor either of the two commissioners had had any special training as an engineer or an architect. He had a great admiration for the Scotch nation, but he would like to know what would be the feeling of Scotchmen if an Irishmen were appointed Secretary for Scotland, and if that gentleman placed under him as his chief official another Irishman. He imagined that the Debates on Scotch questions would be a little more lively than they usually were. Judging from the information which had reached him, Mr. Robertson's administration had given general dissatisfaction, and therefore he was anxious to know what were the qualifications of that gentleman which induced the Government to appoint him chairman of the Board, and, secondly, why they increased the salary of the office by £1,000. Mr. Robertson not only received an increased salary, but he had appointed an additional assistant secretary at a salary of £500, rising by increments of £50 to £600. That assistant secretary was not a civil servant, but a man imported from the Great Northern Railway, like his chief, and placed over the head of all the civil servants in the office. The Government were bound to lay before the Committee very strong reasons for such a condition of things, which on the face of it looked exceedingly bad. As he had said, the engineer's and the architect's departments were the two chief departments of the Board of Works. In the engineer's department there was one engineer with a salary of £750 rising to £900, an assistant with a salary of £400 rising to £600, and a clerk of the works with a salary of £150 rising to £200. In the architect's department there was a senior surveyor with a salary of £700, and two assistants with £600. It appeared to him that these two departments had been starved in order to pay the chairman of the Board a high salary. He came now to the question of the recovery of the loans. He put a question the other day, in consequence of numerous complaints, as to the amount of fees charged by the Board of Works under Section 6 of the Public Works Act 1892. He had been told that the power of imposing these charges had been used with extreme harshness since Mr. Robertson came into office; and he, therefore, put his question in the House and received the following reply:—The fees imposed under the sanction during the past five years were—14s. 9d. in 1892-93; £4 8s. 5d. in 1893–94; £121 12s. 1d. in 1894-95; £195 in 1895-96; and £717 in 1896-97. That was to say, that within the last year these penal fees had jumped from £195 to £717. That was a monstrous increase, and there was nothing to account for it, either in the number of instalments due or the amounts recovered. ["Hear, hear!"] He understood also that much hardship had been caused by neglect to insure due service of warnings. ["Hear, hear!"] Another point to which he wished to draw attention was the question of contracts, especially to mention a case the particulars of which had been furnished him by tradesmen at Dublin. He gratefully acknowledged that the Secretary to the Treasury had in all such matters as these met them with extreme fairness, and had given them pledges which he had faithfully redeemed. Whenever they could substantiate a case of a contractor breaking a fair-wage rule, he had taken action to enforce the rule. ["Hear, hear!"] The special case to which he wanted to refer was the contract for Portrane Lunatic Asylum, in the county of Dublin. It was alleged that the contract had been given to a firm of sweating builders in the district of Dublin, at £1,500 higher than the lowest tender; and that these builders were paying their carpenters 28s. a week and their labourers 12s., when the average wages in the district were 36s. and 19s. respectively. If the facts were as alleged, the fair-wages resolution had been distinctly broken. He had no doubt the right. hon. Gentleman would inquire into this matter, and, if the facts were correctly stated, he would see that the fair-wages resolution was observed. ["Hear, hear!"]

On the return of the CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS after the usual interval,

MR. J. C. FLYNN (Cork, N.) drew attention to the fact that out of the total sum of £38,000 odd, no less than £17,160 went in salaries for the head officials of the department and the clerical staff. For the engineering branch of the department, which was the most useful branch, only £3,180 was set aside. Considering the importance of the building and drainage work entrusted to the engineering branch, it was surprising that so small a sum should be allocated to it, while so large an amount was expended on the merely clerical staff. He was of opinion that the items of the Vote were not distributed wisely. In connection with the system of loans to Boards of Guardians, he wished to call attention to the treatment which the Listowel Board of Guardians had received at the hands of the Board of Works. He had already drawn attention to this matter in a question which he put to the Chief Secretary two months ago. It appeared that there was an instalment of about £1,750 due by the Listowel Guardians to the Board of Works on the 1st of August last. The Listowel Board was informed that the instalment should by paid by August 31. For some reason — he believed owing to the absence of the clerk—there was some delay, but the instalment was sent on October 1, that was in 31 days. What did the Board of Works do? They demanded £87 18s. as interest. When it was pointed out to them that this was interest at the rate of 60 per cent. the reply came that it was not interest at all, but money due for receiver's fees. He had been informed that as a matter of fact no receiver was appointed in this case, but whether a receiver were appointed or not he asked whether such a demand by the Board of Works was fair. It was but poor encouragement to the Board of Guardians, who had many difficulties to contend against, to treat them in such a manner as that.

CAPTAIN DONELAN (Cork, E.) said that they had listened with great interest to the scheme expounded by the Chief Secretary for the development of the tourist traffic in Ireland. He admitted readily that it was very desirable to develop the tourist traffic on the River Shannon, but he wished to remind the right hon. Gentleman that there was another river that deserved as much attention—namely, the Blackwater. He thought that everybody who had any acquaintance with the scenery of the Blackwater would agree that it equalled if it did not excel, any river scenery in Ireland. He hoped that the right hon. Gentleman would consider favourably the expediency of subsidising a steamer on this river.

MR. MICHAEL AUSTIN (Limerick, W.) was afraid that the Chief Secretary had confined his attention to the development of the tourist traffic on the Upper Shannon, and that other parts of the river which were perhaps more picturesque were to be neglected. The intention was to run a steamer from Tarbert to Kilrush; but from Tarbert up to Limerick there was to be no new communication. If the steamer called at Glin and then went on to Foynes—at both of which places there is excellent pier accommodation—and round to Limerick, the tourist traffic on the Shannon might be greatly extended.

MR. J. GILHOOLY (Cork Co., W.) complained that whereas formerly an Irish tenant farmer could borrow money from the Treasury to the extent of five times the value of his holdings, now, owing to a Treasury minute, he could not borrow more than three times its value. The former Chancellor of the Exchequer consented to the advance of £10,000 from the Board of Works provided that the Congested Districts Board and the Cork and Bandon Railway would give an equal sum. The Congested Districts Board seemed to have agreed to give a third of the £10,000 and the Cork and Bandon Railway to give a third. But the railway directors found they had no power to advance the money. He desired to ask whether the Treasury would give two-thirds of the money out of the Board of Works in addition to the third the Congested Districts Board had agreed to. A deep-water pier was wanted at Baltimore to develop the fishing industry there, and make the line of railway which had recently been constructed more useful.

MR. KNOX drew attention to a sum of £20,313 down for receivers' fees under the Local Loans Fund. He asked whether this represented profits which the British Government expected to make in the year out of money-lending transactions in Ireland. Fees in respect of loans were exacted from local authorities in cases where he doubted whether the Treasury had any legal right to exact them. The point would shortly be before the Courts in Ireland. Receivers' fees had been exacted from poor tenants without any legal right whatever. The Suck Drainage Loan was authorised by an Act of 1892, but the money had been issued before the Act was passed. The Act of 1892 said that—

> "in addition to any sum in respect of principal and interest and any loan hereafter created or in respect of any rent-charge hereafter granted by the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland, there shall be paid 1s. in the pound receivers' fees thereon."

These loans were wholly or partly issued before this Act was passed. Sixpence was a month overdue in respect of loans granted before the Act of 1892, but the Treasury went and sued for the 6d. and for 1s. receiver's fees. He contended that there was nothing to allow them to sue for the apportioned part. These forms of petty chicanery were really most irritating. In point of law no receivers' fees could, under the Act of 1892, be exacted in respect of Suck Drainage Loans. But even if he were wrong on that point it was clear that 1s. in receiver's fees could not be excluded where 6d. was the total sum due in the first instance. Local bodies in Ireland should understand that receivers' fees were levied if any sum borrowed was a month overdue, but that no further sum could be levied even if the loan continued overdue for a longer period. Therefore the advice he would give to any local authority which happened to be liable for receivers' fees was to take as long as they could. He hoped they would strain their legal rights to the utmost. This charge had not been made upon borrowers in England or Scotland. It was levied in Ireland, and Ireland only; and it should be made as profitless to the Treasury as possible. He believed that with a little ingenuity it would be quite possible to make it not a gain to the Treasury but a loss.

MR. DILLON asked why this year the proportion of refusals of applications for loans for the erection of workmen's dwellings in the towns in Ireland was greater that it had ever been before. He thought every possible encouragement should be given to the building of national schools, but he noticed that last year only £30,000 was given to the National School Commissioners, instead of £40,000 as was promised. Why should this deduction of £10,000 be made? There ought to be no undue check on the building of national schools in Ireland. Every grant had to run the gauntlet of the National Education Commissioners, and then of the Board of Works, and unless it were approved by both the money was not issued. Why then was this limitation placed upon the sum given to the Commissioners?

MR. J. BRIGG (York, W.R., Keighley): called attention to the fact that a serious attempt had been made in order to make use of the water power in Ireland for industrial purposes. This would be exceedingly useful to the country and the manufacturers of the country. The Bill passed through Committee, he believed; but, owing to a great many objections which were raised, it was thrown out in another place. He thought that any attempt to benefit the manufacturing industries of Ireland should be encouraged.

*Mr. HANBURY pointed out that the contract which had been referred to by the hon. Member for Mayo was one given out by the Board of Control, and, therefore, was not a Government contract, and he should be put out of order in discussing it. With regard to the question of the workmen's houses, there were five refusals out of 17 applications for these houses. Loans could only be granted, he believed, up to 50 per cent. of the value of the building, and the question arose as to what was the value of the building. The Board of Works decided that it was not the actual amount spent on the building, but what the building would fetch in the market if it were sold. That was not necessarily, however, the reason for the refusals; he thought that in every case in which a loan of this kind had been refused it had been because the building was not a *bonâ fide* workman's house. It was quite clear that this provision ought not to be extended to buildings which were not of that character. With regard to another point which had been raised, £40,000 a year for three years was the sum assigned to the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland for building grants, and he did not think it could be said that they had been stinted. That only £30,000 was to be paid in the third year was due to the fact that after the arrangement had been made the Commissioners found that they had orders for a larger number of buildings than they had supposed would have to be paid for at once, and had asked that they might be allowed to anticipate £10,000 before the commencement of the three years, and instead of deducting that amount from the grant for the first or second year, they had charged it on the last of the three years. It had been asked why the chairman now received a very much larger salary than his predecessor. There were several very good reasons for that. The present chairmanship was not a permanent appointment; it was only for five years, in addition to which the present chairman sacrificed a very good appointment in order to take his position. Moreover he would not be pensioned. He thought that by the step they had taken in appointing an expert man of business. even at a higher salary, a large amount of money had already been saved, Having regard to the large sum that was being expended in connection with railway works, it was especially necessary that they should have at the head of the Board of Works a railway expert. If there were any men in our public service who were often thought not sufficiently paid it was the experts. At attack had been made upon the chairman because he was a Scotchman; but he was at any rate a Scotchman who had been in Ireland, and had been connected with the industries of Ireland for a long time. It had been said that the assistant secretary was not a Civil servant in the ordinary sense of the word, but in special cases special qualifications were required, and in this case the necessary qualifications had not been possessed by other members of the staff. The chairman of the Board of Works had been attacked for his action in connection with the recovery of the Seed Loans; but he would remind hon. Gentlemen that it was not the permanent official, but the chief of the Department who was responsible for him in the House that should be attacked. ["Hear, hear."] The reason of the large increase in the processes for the recovery of the Seed Loans since the appointment of the chairman of the Board of Works was that it had fallen due last year and this year. It was said that it was very hard for the Treasury to have adopted this particular process of recovery; but the Treasury had no discretion whatever in the matter—they were simply acting under the strict directions given by the Act for the recovery of loans. Then, again, the so-called fine of 1s. in the £1 was not a fine at all, but represented the cost of the recovery of the loan.

Mr. CARSON: Does the right hon. Gentleman mean to say that he only exacts the exact amount of the cost of recovery?

*Mr. HANBURY: Yes; I believe 1s. in the £1 is nearly in all cases the approximate cost incurred; and, indeed, is sometimes below it.

Mr. J. C. FLYNN (Cork, N.): The only expense in the Listowel case was the letter sent to the Board of Guardians. [*Laughter.*]

*Mr. HANBURY said that the Listowel Guardians paid up at the last moment; but in most cases the Treasury had to put in force the process of recovery. It was said also that this was a usurious Government—that they charged 60 per cent. for the Seed Loan. But that case was entirely given away by the hon. Member for Londonderry when he advised the people not to repay the Loan.

Mr. KNOX: I told them not to pay until they had to.

*Mr. HANBURY was sure the hon. Gentleman would not have given the people that advice if he thought they would have to pay 60 per cent. interest while the Loan remained unpaid. The way the hon. Members arrived at the 60 per cent. was this: The Treasury charge 1s. in the £1 if the Loan is in arrear, and 5 per cent. for one month was 60 per cent. for 12 months. [*Laughter.*] With regard to the whole question of the Suck Drainage, any one listening to the hon. Member for Galway would have assumed that the whole burden fell upon the occupiers, and that they had practically received no benefit from the expenditure of this money. Whilst not denying that the results had been by no means commensurate with the amount expended, it was only right to say the arrangement was that in respect of these large sums the occupiers should pay nothing except to the extent of the enhanced value of the land, and that the whole of the infructuous amount should fall upon the landlords; thus there was *primâ facie* no hardship to the occupiers. ["Hear, hear!"] The valuations as to the enhanced value in all these cases had been made by Mr. Roberts, who was admitted to be one of the most expert valuers in connection with the Land Commission. Complaint had been made of the iniquity of the Board of Works collecting arrears of sixpences. He admitted that an arrear of 6d. was not a large sum, but when a great number of persons owed small sums which had to be paid periodically the total would represent a large amount, and, after all, he did not know why there should be a greater iniquity in collecting a small sum than in collecting a large debt. He would make the further admission that the cost of collection was out of proportion to the amount involved, and he was not at all quite satisfied that in very small debts like these they were entitled to charge 1s. in the pound. He would inquire more fully into the matter. The hon. Member for Mayo had stated that it had been admitted that certain landlords were also in arrear with their payments, whilst the Government proceeded against the occupiers and not against the landlords. He agreed with the hon. Member that both ought to be treated alike and that they ought to recover equally from the landlords as from the occupiers. ["Hear, hear!"] As to the loans to small farmers, until recently they could borrow up to an amount representing five times the valuation of their property. The maximum amount had now been reduced to three times the valuation, unless collateral security was given, and the minimum sum had also been reduced from £50 to £35, the reason for the change being that experience had shown it was very difficult to recover the loans from the smaller tenants. If, however, any case of hardship could be shown to have resulted from the new arrangement he should be perfectly willing to inquire into it.

Mr. DILLON thought the right hon. Gentleman must be mistaken in his impression that the shilling in the pound represented the cost of collection. He had in his hand a civil bill which had been served on one of the Suck Drainage tenants for a claim of 2s. 8d., together with 1s. in the pound for receiver's fee, there being a memorandum stating that the cost of the process if settled before entry would be 2s. The costs of all these proceedings for recovery were separately fixed and were recoverable in the case of all proceedings instituted by the Board of Works, as they were before the passing of the Act of 1892. He, therefore, believed that the fine of 1s. in the pound did not represent the cost of collection, but was a special fine confined to Ireland, not applicable to England, although the Public Works Loan Act of

1892 applied to both countries. The Act did not provide that with respect to any loan created in England, there should be a charge of 1s. in the pound. It would only be fair play, therefore, to put a clause into the next Public Works Loans Act repealing the provision as far as Ireland was concerned.

Dr. TANNER (Cork, Mid) said that this discussion on Irish public works went on year after year, and nothing was done. The position of things now was just what it was 50 years ago. A man was prosecuted in connection with the River Suck Drainage for a sum of 6d., and the railway fare to Galway was 6s. 3d. He moved the reduction of the Vote by £2,000.

Question "That a sum, not exceeding £24,247, be granted for the said Service,"—put, and negatived.

Mr. T. M. HEALY said as the Works Department had now spent the necessary sum on Kingstown roads, could the Secretary hold out any hope of the sum of £800 being paid to the Kingstown Commissioners?

*Mr. HANBURY said no, he was afraid the bargain as a whole must be carried out. The hon. Member knew why the Bill could not be passed this year. The whole arrangement would have to stand over until next year.

Original Question put, and agreed to.

Resolution to be reported.

Class IV.

Motion made, and Question proposed,

"That a sum, not exceeding £2,450, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1898, for a grant in aid of the expenses of the Queen's Colleges in Ireland."

Mr. Dillon.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.) called attention to the claims of the Roman Catholic population of Ireland with respect to University education. Looking to the Estimate, he said, it might be imagined that the annual expenditure on the Queen's Colleges only amounted to £33,000; as a matter of fact, it amounted more nearly to £38,900. The explanation was that a sum of £5,000 had been eliminated from the Estimate and been transferred from the Irish Church Fund to the expenses of the new institution of which the Queen's Colleges were nurseries, the Royal University. In other words, the English Government, while pretending to do justice to Ireland, had appropriated £5,000 of Irish money which used to be taken out of public funds. The question of University education in Ireland was of intense interest at the present time. The Irish case was this, that a large sum of money had been expended uselessly on a University system which the Irish people would not take, while everything like University education for the Catholic people of Ireland had been starved out. There was given out of public funds towards University education a sum annually of £168,000. What was given to Catholics out of that sum? £3,000 a year only. It was worth while showing the way this £3,000 came to them. It was given in an indirect way. There were certain fellowships established under this grant in the Royal University. The holders of these fellowships, 14 in number, were asked to lecture in University College in Dublin. They lectured there and likewise examined in the Royal University, and their whole income for lecturing and examining was the £3,000 referred to. Now when it was considered that the Catholics were four-fifths of the whole population, this was an intolerable proportion. For 30 years absolute promises had been made across the floor of the House on this subject. In 1868 Lord Mayo expressly promised in the strongest terms a Catholic University. Twelve years ago the gentleman who was now, as then, Chancellor of the Exchequer, expressly promised that he would bring in a Bill to establish a Catholic University, but nothing had been done, and still they had the same miserable round of promises. Even in the present year the Chief Secretary reiterated words which he and Lord Cadogan spoke outside the House. The Chief Secretary was a firm upholder of the Union, but he had always thought that his policy in that respect was based on some foundation of this kind—that the English Parliament would give to the people of Ireland what was just and reasonable. Did the right hon. Gentleman know that it was owing to the direct action of the English Government that the Irish people at the present day were proscribed from all the benefits of University education. It was no myth that before the English came to the country at all there was a college at Lismore, in which there were 1,400 students from every country in Europe, and it was no secret that here was the nucleus of a university. And let him tell the right hon. Gentleman that if the Protestant Parliament of Ireland had not been destroyed it would have granted a Catholic University to Ireland. In 1793, in the first Relief Act for Catholics passed by the Irish Parliament, there was the provision that if a new college should be affiliated to Trinity College, Dublin, every Catholic should be eligible for scholarships and fellowships, and even the professorships of the college. He recollected too, that in the Debate on the Irish University question which took place in 1885, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, when the extravagant expenditure of the Queen's College was brought up, said that so far as he could see, he could not defend that expenditure, and that the Government would carefully consider how the sum, whatever it was, appropriated to Irish University Education, could best be appropriated. Let them see if it was appropriated in the best way. The Catholic University College had to provide all its buildings and all its apparatus, and yet it was able to surpass and to win university prizes from the pampered students of the Queen's Colleges in Cork and Galway. The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Dublin, Dr. Walsh, had watched the progress of the University question in Ireland with very great attention, and he had within the last few days published a book, in which he showed that during the last 12 years the Catholic College had beaten absolutely the colleges of Cork, Belfast, and Galway in carrying off the first prizes, and in the matter of honours, both the Cork and Galway colleges. In honours, during the past 12 years, the Catholic Colleges had passed no fewer than 926 men, whereas from the combined colleges of Cork and Galway there were only 382 passed.. When they came to first honours, the pre-eminence and distinction of this Catholic College was still more marked. In the Catholic College 324 men had passed in first honours, whereas from Galway and Cork there were only 97.

Mr. RENTOUL (Down, E.): From how many students?

Mr. MACNEILL said he was glad of that interruption, because it enabled him to strengthen his case. The number in the Catholic College was, he thought, about 150, while the number at present in Queen's College, Cork, was 212, and in Queen's College, Galway, about 200. This showed that, with a lesser number than either of these two colleges, the Catholic College had taken a greater number of prizes. Then, when they came to medicine, they found that the Catholic College was able to compete not only with Cork and Galway, but with Belfast also. In medicine, during the last 12 years, 71 men had gone out of the Catholic College with first-class honours, while from the Belfast College only 53 men had gone out, 24 from Cork, and eight from Galway. Scholarships and exhibitions were lavishly strewn upon the floor of these colleges for anyone who chose to take them.

They were simply a bribe to induce the intelligent sons of small farmers in Ireland to adopt a system of education which their Church disapproved and to become bad citizens and bad Irishmen. Men who had been plucked in examinations elsewhere had gone back and obtained these scholarships in the Queen's Colleges. He had gone through the report furnished to Parliament every year by the heads of the Queen's Colleges in Cork and in Galway. He left out of consideration the Queen's College in Belfast, because it was a great success, and, like Trinity College, was exactly suitable to the requirements of the pupil; but they were both sectarian.

MR. LECKY (Dublin University) said it was untrue to say that Trinity College was sectarian.

MR. MACNEILL maintained that it was, at any rate, true to say that the tone and feeling were thoroughly sectarian. In Cork College there were 212 pupils and 16 Professors. The Greek Professor with £366 a year had only 12 pupils; the Professor of political economy with £167 a year had only four pupils; the Professor of law with £175 a year had five pupils; and then there was the president of the College who had a safe and snug berth. There was one professor, the Professor of moral philosophy, with £335 a year, who had no pupils at all. [*Laughter.*] The Professor of foreign languages combined in his curriculum French, German and Italian. In French he had three pupils, in German two, and in Italian two, and his salary was £241 10s. The Professor of law with £150 a year had eight pupils. He should like to hear the First Lord of the Treasury defend this system. He maintained that at the head of these colleges there ought to be men of moral weight. Who, he asked, was the President of Queen's College, Cork? It was Sir Rowland Ponsonby Blennerhassett, who possessed no educational degree and who had no qualification for the post. He was, however, the paymaster of Pigott, and he was given the post because he financed that infamous man. Pigott's last despairing telegram for money was addressed to Sir Rowland Ponsonby Blennerhassett, and when he was unsuccessful in destroying the Irish people he ran away under the assumed name of Rowland Ponsonby Blennerhassett. Nothing more scandalous had been perpetrated since the Union than the appointment of a man of that character to be the head of youth. ["Hear, hear!"] He had now come to the question of the establishment of a Catholic University. The Chief Secretary gave a specific pledge on the 22nd of January last that there should be a Catholic University and so did the First Lord of the Treasury on the same night. If there was any security in the promise the Leader of the House was pledged up to the hilt. The right hon. Gentleman practically put a series of questions to the Catholic hierarchy. He asked whether they would be content that the clergy should not have a predominant voice in the institution, whether they would be content that an ecclesiastical or divinity chair should not be endowed out of public funds, whether they would be content to make an arrangement like the conscience clause, so that a youth not belonging to the Catholic faith should not be interfered with. The Catholic Bishops had given three specific answers which must have thoroughly satisfied the right hon. Gentlemen. This was a matter upon which all Ireland was unanimous. There was not a single dissentient voice—["Oh!"]—except, perhaps, a few gentlemen in Belfast. Trinity College was very anxious for it; and he was not revealing any secret when he said that one of the most eminent Professors of Trinity College said to him, only a short time ago, "Wouldn't you think such and such a building in Dublin would be a right good building for the Catholic University?" He would ask the right hon. Gentleman seriously, now that the Bishops had given these assurances, would he take the great majority behind him, and use it in accordance with the wishes of the Irish people, and with his own feelings—which, in this matter, were theirs,—and grant the people, who were thirsting for knowledge—["Oh!"]—yes, thirsting for knowledge—for they were refused knowledge when it was divorced from their religious instincts. [*Cheers.*] Would he give them now the university education they were so unanimous in demanding? He had it in his power; he had an unrivalled opportunity; such an opportunity had not offered itself for the last thirty years. ["Hear, hear!"] What they now wanted to know was the day—they would all be there at the wedding. [*Laughter and cheers.*]

Mr. DILLON hoped the right hon. Gentleman would give them some definite assurance. When he spoke in January last in the Debate on the Address, the Irish Members firmly believed that that speech gave them a promise more definite than any of the numerous previous promises they had received. It was a promise that if the Bishops of Ireland and the Catholic laity would give the right hon. Gentleman the information he then asked for he would practically settle this question. What had happened since January last? The Bishops had considered the question, and had made a public declaration within the last month, which in that House the right hon. Gentleman had accepted as thoroughly satisfactory, and in every way calculated to remove any of the difficulties that were supposed to lie in the way of the Government. The Bishops had been led into making this declaration by the speech of the right hon. Gentleman, and he knew that he could receive at any moment from the Irish representatives any information he desired which it was in their power to give. He wished to direct the attention of the House and the right hon. Gentleman to the fact that immediately after the declaration of the Irish Catholic Bishops the Dublin *Daily Express*—which spoke, he thought, he might fairly say, for the whole body of Anglicans in Ireland—published an article which did the greatest possible credit to that journal, and in which it stated that the declaration of the Bishops did them honour, and was entirely satisfactory; and that, for their part, speaking for Irish Protestants, they trusted there would be no further delay in dealing with the question. ["Hear, hear!"] The representatives of Trinity College held the same view. In fact, there was not a single representative Irishman—except perhaps one of the Members for Belfast, who held very strong opinions, and who had gone to Belfast to celebrate the 12th of July. [*Laughter.*] With this solitary exception not a single individual amongst the whole of the Irish Members had stood up or would stand up and say that he saw any reason why this question should not be settled. ["Hear, hear!"] Surely the demand of the young Catholics of Ireland, made generation after generation, must be acceded to. Whether they were right or wrong was no longer a question to be argued, because the right hon. Gentleman had admitted the fact—he had admitted that they had no right to inquire whether the demand was justified or not—he had admitted that after so many long years of trial they had proved that the present system would not, and could not, meet their wants; and surely the young Catholic men of Ireland, after having suffered for generations from what the right hon. Gentleman himself had characterised as cruel disabilities in this matter of education, had a claim upon the right hon. Gentleman and the Government and that House that they should be no longer subjected to such disabilities, and that no further delays should be imposed. (*Cheers.*) This was a question, one would suppose after what had occurred in that House within the last fortnight, that had been once for all lifted out of the region of Party politics. The leaders on both sides had declared that the question ought to be settled, indeed ought to have been settled long ago, and he appealed to the right hon. Gentleman no longer to meet them with evasion, but to state specifically that he would next Session—if it could not be done this Session—introduce a Bill that would settle finally this question of a Catholic University for Ireland. (*Cheers.*)

MR. ARNOLD - FORSTER (Belfast, W.) said the hon. Member who had just spoken had told the House that no protest had been raised, except by one hon. Member of the House with regard to this proposal. Certainly he was not in a position to raise any protests on the facts, because he did not know what the facts were. But he did reserve the right of himself and his constituents, if they were to have proposals which had been previously made in that House reproduced—a right which they would certainly exercise—of criticising and opposing those proposals if they thought it their duty to do so. [" Hear, hear ! "] He wished to point out that an attempt had been made, which would no doubt be repeated, to represent those who did not go with the hon. Member to the full extent as being illiberal and retrograde. The Universities which had been alluded to by hon. Members were the institutions of an age gone by, and in some instances such Universities had been removed by Government because they were not considered essential to the civilisation and the education of the countries in which they were situated and were not thought to be compatible with the best interests of the places in which they carried on their operations. The University of London had not been such a success that they were warranted in creating a similar institution in Ireland. He objected strongly to such a University as had been suggested unless on lines he considered compatible with absolute freedom to those who desired to attend it, and he was sure he should be misrepresenting the views of a large number of his constituents if he did not enter his protest against it at the present moment. He did not know what negotiations might have passed between Her Majesty's Government and those on behalf of whom the Member for East Mayo spoke, but, at any rate, he could not stand by and be taken as acquiescing in what the hon. Member had put forward.

MR. CARSON said he had already expressed his views on the subject. He entirely agreed that Trinity College was an unsectarian institution, and he understood that the Catholics of Ireland were willing to have a university which would be unsectarian in the same sense. At the same time, it would, of course, be folly to deny that Trinity College was a great centre for the Protestant Church in Ireland, and that there was also connected with that college certain services which he hoped would always continue there, and which would always give a certain Protestant aroma to the precincts of that great institution. The one main contention that his right hon. Friend the Leader of the House put forward was that this Question could not be dealt with until the Catholics of Ireland manifested to the Government that they were willing that, so far as these matters were absolutely unsectarian in Trinity College, they should be unsectarian in the proposed new University, and that, so far as the use of public funds went, they should be devoted to unsectarian purposes alone. If that was what the Catholics were willing to accept, let them not talk of this matter as if it were a bugbear of a purely Catholic University where there would be exclusion of all religious liberty as far as Protestants were concerned. [" Hear, hear ! "] Let them start with what the Catholics offered to accept—namely, what Protestants had got. [*Nationalist cheers.*] What he had always said and adhered to was this—would he as a Protestant in Ireland, who believed in the value of University education, deny for a moment to his Roman Catholic fellow citizens exactly what he enjoyed. ["Hear, hear!"] That proposition would be absolutely unarguable. He did not know that there might not be some persons in his own constituency opposed to granting a University on these terms, but so far as the internal Government of Trinity College was concerned, he did not believe there would be any objection. ["Hear, hear!"] Having done all they could to attract Catholics to Trinity College and failed, ought they to say that because they would not come to them they should have no University education at all? He had never hesitated to put forward the view that it was the best interest of Ireland that this question should be settled, and when the Government saw their way to bring the matter before the House for settlement, he could only say, on his own behalf and on behalf of his right hon. colleague, that they would welcome a fair solution of the question on the lines he had indicated. ["Hear, hear!"]

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: An appeal has been made to me from both sides of the House, and by more than one speaker, upon a subject which has become more identified with my own individual utterances than any other question in connection with recent Irish policy. A question has been asked me as to whether it is intended that a Bill dealing with higher education in Ireland shall be introduced in the course of next Session. I feel certain that the hon. Gentleman who asked the question and the others who have spoken upon it must all be aware that at this time a forecast can scarcely ever be given by the Government with regard to the coming Session. A pledge has been distinctly given that one great Irish Measure shall be brought in next Session, and the fact that that promise has been given shows that the complexion of next Session will be largely—I will not say predominantly—Irish; and that I should mortgage the rest of that Session to another Irish Bill goes beyond anything I could promise on behalf of the Government. ["Hear, hear!"] There is no doubt in the minds of hon. Members who initiated this Debate a desire to know what the views of the Government are with regard to the recent declarations made on high authority by the Roman Catholic Bishops in Ireland. The hon. Member for Donegal said that the declarations of the Irish Bishops were made in response to a speech which I delivered in the Debates on the Address. That, as I gather, is a large approach to the truth, and if I am responsible for the declarations of the Irish Bishops on this subject I have to congratulate myself the more for having made the speech to which the hon. Member referred, for everybody must feel that the Roman Catholic Bishops have on this occasion made declarations of the utmost importance, showing that a great change has come over public opinion in Ireland on this question, and that they are not only ready but anxious to have a University started which Roman Catholics might not only attend, but which should harmonise generally with the views of Roman Catholics, and which should have its doors as widely open to members of all denominations as Trinity College, Dublin, and which should be as open as any other University in the land to everything connected with the progress of knowledge and to the advancement of all the liberal arts. That declaration, I think, must have a great bearing upon public opinion both in this country and in Ireland. ["Hear, hear!"] Those exponents of Irish opinion who were supposed to be most hostile to these modern views have now declared in favour of them, and we have it specifically on their authority that they welcome, as I understand, a governing body on which laymen shall predominate, and that they are prepared to safeguard the interests of the professors and to accept in the fullest sense those very statutes which in the cases of Trinity College, Dublin, and of Oxford and Cambridge insure that the emoluments and teaching of those great seats of learning shall be open to men of every religious creed. I think that is a most important declaration, and I think I may almost gather from the speech of the hon. Member for Belfast—studiously guarded as that speech was—that he himself would not be averse for a settlement of this difficult subject upon the general lines thus laid down. But when the hon. Member for Donegal and other hon. Gentlemen sitting upon the other side of the House told us that public opinion is so far advanced that it rests simply with the Government to bring in a non-contentious Measure of one clause—that, I think, was the happy solution suggested the other day across the floor of the House—a non-contentious Measure of one clause which should for ever settle this question, I think they hardly reckoned with every phase of public opinion in Ireland, in England, and in Scotland. ["Hear, hear!"] I have made myself, perhaps to my own detriment, somewhat a missionary in this matter. I have done my best for many years, and if, as I trust will not be the case, the question is not rapidly solved, I shall continue to make myself the strong and earnest advocate of opinions which I hold to be of the utmost importance in the interests of higher education and in the interests of the whole social life of Ireland. I hold those views with the utmost strength of conviction, and nothing will induce me to go back on one word which, as far as I remember, I have ever uttered upon this question. But I do not conceal from myself that there is a process of conversion to be effected in connection with this matter. There are many persons holding quite honestly the view that to establish such university would be a retrograde measure—["hear, hear!"]—and that it would be a concession to opinions with which they profoundly disagree. I confess that though I understand those views I do not sympathise with them. [*Nationalist cheers.*] I am a Protestant. I fear that some people would even regard me as a bigoted Protestant, and it is partly because I am a bigoted Protestant that I hold the views that I do in this matter, for I cannot help picturing to myself what course I should take if I were responsible for a young man of 17 or 18, and had open to me for his university training no college except one in which the general current and trend of opinion was Roman Catholic, in which the majority of the teachers were Roman Catholic, and in which the public services were celebrated on the Roman Catholic system. Greatly as I believe in the value of higher education, that a university training is one of the greatest blessings any man can have on the entrance of life, I, holding the Protestant opinions I do, should hesitate to send to such a college any ward of mine for whose education I was responsible. Holding these Protestant views, am I not to be permitted to credit Roman Catholics with similar views? [*Irish cheers.*] With regard to places of worship, every word of the description I have given about a Roman Catholic University might be applied, with the substitution of the word "Protestant" for Roman Catholic. ["Hear, hear!"] I confess that no argument, no casuistry, to which I have listened has been able to shake my conviction that it is a hardship—I do not like to use the word "injustice" because we might argue for ever about what is just or unjust—a hardship on the great majority of the Roman Catholics in Ireland that they are not to be allowed to have a place of higher education which harmonises with their views in the same sense in which Trinity College, Dublin, Oxford, and Cambridge (the great traditional Universities of England), harmonise with the general views of Protestants in England. Holding the views I do, I shall do all I can in accordance with them. Hon. Gentlemen opposite know perfectly well when they talk of carrying a non-contentious clause, when they assume opinions, however strongly held by individuals, whatever position those individuals may occupy in their Party—that does not carry with it any remedy or cure for the Parliamentary difficulties to which controversial questions give rise. But I think I see symptoms—not small symptoms—of a change of public opinion in this country on the subject. I believe the views I hold with such earnestness are beginning to penetrate in many directions where they had but little foothold some years ago, and certainly the action of the Catholic Bishops has done a great deal to forward a cause which is not, I believe, the cause of any one special form of religious denomination, the cause of Roman Catholicism against Protestantism, but is emphatically the cause of higher education against that want of higher education and culture under which we have, unfortunately, for many years condemned so many persons in Ireland. [*Cheers.*]

Mr. J. MORLEY: I do not propose to make many observations after the interesting, eloquent, and important speech we have just heard from the First Lord of the Treasury. But I think the Committee ought to realise where it is. With what the right hon. Gentleman has said on the urgency of the matter, and the grounds upon which he has defended his own views I venture humbly, but most entirely, to agree. He has stated the case for dealing with higher education in Ireland with a force and breadth that leaves nothing to be desired. I also agree with the right hon. Gentleman when he warns my hon. Friends from Ireland, that this will not be a one-clause or non-contentious Measure. As I have said, I cordially and entirely agree with the views of the right hon. Gentleman. But if the Benches behind me were more populous than they are, I am not at all sure I should find a majority of those who sit behind me in agreement with me. I have always taken care, in speaking on this subject, to say that I spoke for myself only, and it is clear from what has fallen from the hon. Member for Belfast, that the Government in dealing with this question, will undoubtedly find a great many serious difficulties. As the right hon. Gentleman said, next Session is pledged to an Irish Measure of the first importance which will no doubt occupy a great deal of Parliamentary time, and when he says it will be impossible for the Government to add to the Measure for Local Government in Ireland a second Irish Measure bristling with controversy of every kind, and which would involve a large amount of detail, I cannot deny that there is a good deal to be said for the right hon. Gentleman's position. But here is a Measure which the right hon. Gentleman argues for as being of the most urgent importance for the well-being of Ireland which cannot be taken next year. Then will it be taken the year after?

The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY: I did not say the Bill could not be passed next year. What I refuse to do is to make any further pledge.

Mr. J. MORLEY: I am glad the right hon. Gentleman takes a more hopeful view of what may be done next year. So do not let us suppose that because the Bill promised bears on the controversy of the government of Ireland that time cannot be found next Session reasonably to deal with the question we have been discussing. Then it will be argued by the Government, and very reasonably, that it would be unfair, having devoted the whole or the larger part of the Session of 1898 to an Irish question, to devote to another Irish question of great importance the whole or part of the Session of 1899. Therefore it comes to this, that a Measure which the right hon. Gentleman has given the House such enormously powerful reasons for thinking is urgently demanded for the well-being of Ireland, a Measure upon which Irish opinion, I will not say is unanimous, because it is not quite unanimous, but which I suppose 95 out of the 103 Members for Ireland will cordially and earnestly support—[" hear, hear !"]—that a Measure of that kind demanded by the great bulk of opinion in Ireland, and of the Members representing Ireland, is in effect, postponed *sine die*, and certainly postponed during the probable duration of this Parliament. I think, apart from the merits of Irish University education, that that is a very striking lesson which English and Scotch Members may well lay to heart, that this Parliament has not time to deal with this matter, and that apparently Englishmen and Scotchmen, according to the First Lord of the Treasury, have not the inclination to do so, either through failure to comprehend the conditions of the question or through a determination to assert their own prejudices against the wishes of the majority of the people of Ireland. This Parliament is, in effect, to deny to Ireland the boon which the right hon. Gentleman, on the one side, and I myself, from my Irish experience and approaching the the question from an entirely different point of view, entirely concur is desirable. We know quite well that a demand of that kind is not likely to be satisfied or conceded during the duration of the present Parliament, and I think it is fair for one like myself, who agree with Gentlemen below the Gangway in their desire for this reform— -at some detriment to myself—to warn the Irish Bishops that if they think they will get a Roman Catholic University from the present Parliament they are much more sanguine than I should have expected.

MR. J. A. RENTOUL said the whole Presbyterian Church of Ireland was opposed to this university. The Presbyterian clergy were singularly free from bigotry, but they were persuaded that a mixed education would be more conducive to harmony among the people. Nineteen-twentieths of the Presbyterian clergy were followers of Mr. Gladstone down to 1886, and were at the present time Liberal-Unionists, and Presbyterian ministers had again and again stood on platforms shoulder to shoulder with Roman Catholic priests in discussing the Irish land question and in supporting the cause of tenant right. There was no church that was freer from the *odium theologicum*, but they were opposed to a Sectarian University. They believed that to have sectarian Universities would bring about an unhappy state of affairs in the country.

And it being Midnight, the Chairman left the Chair to make his report to the House.

Resolution to be reported upon Monday next; Committee also Report progress; to sit again upon Monday next.

WAYS AND MEANS.

Committee deferred till Monday next.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

On the Motion "that this House do now adjourn,"

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.), announced that the Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill would be reprinted with the Amendments which have been so far made in it on Report, and would be delivered to Members before Monday, and that the Irish Judicature Bill would be introduced by the Chief Secretary for Ireland on Thursday, and not on Monday, as already announced.

Question, "That this House do now adjourn," put, and agreed to.

House adjourned accordingly at Five
minutes after Twelve o'clock
till Monday next.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Monday, 12th July 1897.

VISCOUNT DILLON.

Petiton of Harold Arthur, Viscount Dillon, in the Peerage of Ireland, claiming a right to vote at the elections of Representative Peers for Ireland; Read, and referred to the Lord Chancellor to consider and report thereupon to the House.

LORD CREMORNE (CLAIM TO VOTE FOR REPRESENTATIVE PEERS FOR IRELAND).

Ordered and directed that a certificate be sent by the Clerk of the Parliaments to the Clerk of the Crown in Ireland, stating that the Lord Chancellor of the United Kingdom has reported to the House of Lords that the right of the Lord Cremorne to vote at the elections of Representative Peers for Ireland has been established to the satisfaction of him the said Lord Chancellor; and that the House of Lords has ordered such report to be sent to the said Clerk of the Crown in Ireland. And it is hereby also Ordered that the said Report of the said Lord Chancellor be sent to the Clerk of the Crown in Ireland.

TITHE RENTCHARGE (IRELAND).

*THE EARL OF BELMORE rose to move—

"That a humble Address be presented to Her Majesty, praying Her Majesty to appoint a Royal Commission to consider and report (1) to what extent the payers of ecclesiastical tithe rentcharge in Ireland (exclusive of cases where the tithe rentcharge has been purchased for cash) are reasonably entitled to a reduction in the present annual amount of such tithe rentcharge (including the amount of outstanding annuities in cases where the tithe rentcharge has been commuted), having regard (1) to the fall in the amount of the tithe rentcharge in England during recent years; (2) to the fall in the market price in Ireland of the articles on which such tithe rentcharge was originally fixed; (3) to the reductions of lay tithe rentcharge which have been made on this basis in Ireland; and (4) upon any other grounds: (2) whether, and to what extent, such ecclesiastical tithe rentcharge could be reduced or extinguished at the present time (or at some future date) without material prejudice to the security of the loans at present charged upon the Irish Church Estate."

He said the subject which he was going to ask their Lordships' attention to was one which had been very often before that House in the last ten years. As long ago as the 2nd July 1888—more than nine years since—the late Lord Waterford brought that matter of Irish tithe rentcharge before their Lordships' House, and from the answer which he received from the present Lord Lieutenant, who was then the Lord Privy Seal, and had charge of the business of that House, it was no doubt hoped, and he believed the Government fully intended that the question should have been dealt with before this time. But somehow or other nothing was done except in one respect which he would mention, in the Land Act of last year, and that matter, like the Delagoa Bay Arbitration which they heard of the other night, and which was always going to be concluded immediately, still dragged on its weary way. Before he went into the merits and history of the question he should just like to say one word as regarded the form of inquiry which he asked for. In his notice he had asked for a Royal Commission. With regard to a Royal Commission, all he had to say was that he put that way of conducting the inquiry as an alternative to what had been originally suggested by his Irish Friends—namely, a Select Committee of that House or a Joint Committee. He thought the matter was so very technical that besides the difficulty of getting a Committee together at this time of the Session, it would really not be a good tribunal to inquire into the matter which was one almost entirely of figures. Of course, he knew there was a question of policy behind the figures, but what they wanted to inquire into was the figures of the matter. So long as they got a tribunal that consisted of skilled persons who were able to deal with the evidence of experts, who were familiar with the work of accountants and actuaries that would quite satisfy them, whether it be a Royal Commission or a Departmental Committee or any other tribunal the Government would appoint. With regard to the history of the Irish Tithe Question, until

1823 the tithe was always paid in kind by the occupiers of the land, whether they were tenants or whether they were landlords farming their own land. In that year an Act was passed which provided for the voluntary commutation of the tithes, and he believed when the tithe was so voluntarily commuted, although the tenant-occupier still continued to pay tithes, he could deduct it from the landlord. That Act did not appear to have worked very well, and there were some other Acts passed in the time of George IV. and William IV. which he need not allude to, as they were Acts of machinery. In the year 1838 it was decided, for reasons which would be familiar to their Lordships, that the tithe rent should be compulsorily commuted into cash payments, and that the payment in future should be made by the landlord and not by the tenants. The landlord, if he chose, had the power to add the amount to the rent, and in the case of leases on his own estate it was done, but in cases where there were no leases and where the amount was really very small, very often the landlord did not think it worth while to alter the rent. The tithe, however, would still be subject to revision periodically. In the year 1872, three years after the Irish Church Act was passed, a Bill was brought into Parliament by Mr. Gladstone's Government, and by this Bill the power which had belonged to the payers or owners of ecclesiastical tithe rentcharges in Ireland to get revision from time to time was taken away, and tithe rentcharge was for all time fixed at the then rate, which happened to be higher than it ever had been. That Bill no doubt attracted very little attention; as far as they could learn it was not explained to Parliament. It was passed *sub silencio*, and he was bound to say that at that time, as there was every prospect of a rising market, nobody thought they would be injured by it and nobody objected to it. Since that time a great fall in prices had occurred, and while the owners or payers of land tithes could get a large reduction by going before a County Court Judge, the owners of ecclesiastical tithes were tied down in the high rate at which they stood in 1872. He wished to read to their Lordships a statement by a gentleman who was a much greater authority as regarded the equity of the case than he was. He meant Mr. Murrough O'Brien. Mr. O'Brien, who was one of the Land Commissioners in Ireland, was not looked upon as a landlord's friend; but at the same time there was no doubt there was no living man who better understood this Irish Tithe Rentcharge Question than did Mr. O'Brien, because in the early days of the Irish Church Act he was one of the officers of the Church Commissioners' Court, whose duty it particularly was to value in the case of Irish Church land, and he had a thorough practical knowledge of the whole question of the finances of the Irish Church. What he was going to read was a statement by Mr. O'Brien in the form of an extract from a supplementary memorandum handed in by him to the Financial Relations Commission of 1895, relative to the Irish Church Estate. Mr. O'Brien said in that paper:—

"The principal part of the property consisted of tithe rentcharge amounting to £410,000 a year, and perpetuity and other rents amounting to £131,000.

"Tithe rentcharges, though a first charge on the land, were difficult to identify, costly to collect, and not easily saleable in the open market. As a rule, they were not worth more than 17 years' purchase.

"Perpetuity rents were not worth more than 21 years' purchase (see O'Conor Don's Report to Bessborough Commissioners, page 42), and as the Church rents were variable with corn prices they are not worth as much as ordinary fee-farm rents.

"The Church Act, however, fixed the price of tithe rentcharge at 22½ and that of perpetuity rents at 25 years' purchase, thus adding (£410,000 x 5·5 and £131,000 x 4) £2,779,000 to the then market value of these securities.

"The value of the Church Fund was thus artificially swollen, to the detriment of the owners of property subject to these charges.

"By the Church Amendment Act 1872, s. 6 (3) the right of varying the rentcharge was taken away. But for this Act the rentcharge of £410,000 would now only be worth £287,000, and its capital value at 17 years' purchase would be £4,879,000 instead of £9,225,000.

"In fact, by the Church Acts, a capital sum of £4,870,000 was imposed on the payers of tithe rentcharge and perpetuity rents in excess of the present market value of these securities.

"On the fund thus swollen were placed charges that had hitherto been paid out of the Imperial revenue, and subsequently other charges which must have been paid, if at all, from the same source.

"£372,331 was paid out of the Church Fund in lieu of the Maynooth grant hitherto paid out of the Imperial revenue, and £773,767 for the Regium Donum, which had been a charge on the Imperial revenue since the time of Charles the Second.

"The whole Church Fund has since been practically allocated for purposes which would otherwise have had to be met by grants from the Imperial revenue to meet temporary emergencies, such as famine and exceptional distress, or political emergencies affecting the peace of the United Kingdom; or to provide for the educational wants of Ireland, a primary want which, having regard to the history of education in Ireland and to her large contribution to the Imperial revenue, should have been paid from that source."

Mr. O'Brien thus showed that one class of British taxpayers alone had to meet in an indirect form the heavy charges which should have been paid out of the Imperial revenue. He wished to draw the attention of their Lordships to the fall in the value and prices of wheat, barley, and oats upon some of which the valuation of tithe was based in some parishes and upon others in other parishes. Not to trouble the House with the full figures, he gave the results. The table he held in his hand disclosed the following facts:—The average price of wheat for the year 1896 was 49·9 per cent. below its average price in the year 1872; its average price for seven years ended 1896 was 45·2 per cent. below its average price for seven years ended 1872; the average price of oats for the year 1896 was 27·4 per cent. below its average price in the year 1872; its average price for seven years ended 1896 was 22·3 per cent. below its average price for seven years ended 1872; the average price of barley for the year 1896 was 37·0 per cent. below its average price in the year 1872; its average price for seven years ended 1896 was 29·2 per cent. below its average price for seven years ended 1872. As indicated in his Motion, there were three heads into which he divided tithe, and in the first part of his Motion he asked for inquiry,

"To what extent the payers of ecclesiastical tithe rentcharge in Ireland (exclusive of cases where the tithe rentcharge has been purchased for cash) are reasonably entitled to a reduction in the present annual amount of such tithe rentcharge (including the amount of outstanding annuities in cases where the tithe rentcharge has been commuted, having regard (1) to the fall in the amount of the tithe rentcharge in England during recent years; (2) to the fall in the market price in Ireland of the articles on which such tithe rentcharge was originally fixed; (3) to the reductions of lay tithe rentcharge which have been made on this basis in Ireland; and (4) upon any other grounds."

This notice showed that in dealing with tithe rent-charge it was necessary to divide it under three heads, and the first of these was the uncommuted tithe. A House of Commons Paper gave the last information published by the Irish Land Commission, and showed that, on 1st April 1896, it was of the annual value of £167,014. The tithe annuities, that was to say, tithe commuted into a fixed sum, and then, by a paper process, turned into terminable annuities, being 2s. 6d. in the pound higher than the original tithe, and running over 52 years, amounted to the annual value of £165,868, so that the difference between those two heads was about £1,200. Those together amounted to £332,882, and if they deducted that sum from the original £410,000 a year which the tithe was in 1869, they would find that the tithe rentcharge and tithe rentcharge annuities which had been redeemed for cash were of the annual value of £77,118. That was therefore the annual amount which had been sold for cash or redeemed under the Land Purchase Acts. If they multiplied that £332,882 by 22½, the number of years' purchase at which tithe, etc., is redeemable (except in cases of sales in the Land Purchase Court, when it is only 20 years' purchase for uncommuted tithe), they got the amount of £7,489,845, or, say, 7½ millions, as the present capital value of the tithe rentcharge, including the terminable annuities. If Parliament would do all that they wanted, the sum concerned would be under 7½ millions, and, after all, that was not a very fearful sum for Parliament to deal with in doing justice to the unfortunate owners and tithe payers of Ireland. Passing on from that, he would tell their Lordships, first, practically what they did not ask, and then what they did ask. They did not propose to open the question with regard to the sum of £77,118 which had been redeemed for cash, but were willing to let byegones be byegones; for although they had had in selling to tenants or redeeming a great deal of loss, yet they recognised as a matter of public convenience that they could not attempt to reopen that matter. But, with regard to the amount of £165,868 (the terminable tithe rentcharge annuities) the Treasury said that they regarded that as a closed account, and at the time of the

Arrears Act, which was the first time that he discovered they so regarded it, they refused to make any allowance to those landlords who had converted their tithes into annuities, while they did make a reduction to those who had not, on account of what they would lose by the Arrears Act. This transaction of commutation was not for the benefit of the landowners, but was for the convenience of the Government Department, and to make more secure the great loans which had been advanced from the funds to commute the life interest of the clergy of the Irish Church, a sum amounting to no less than nine millions sterling. That was only a paper transaction, and no cash passed, and he claimed, as did Lord Waterford nine years ago, that that should be dealt with in the same manner as the tithe. He thought it was unfair to the owner of one estate that he should be dealt with in one way while upon another estate, as was pointed out by his noble Friend (Lord Lansdowne) the other night on Lord Inchiquin's Motion, he was dealt with in another way. As regards the uncommuted tithe of £167,000 a year, they asked, first that the Act of 1872 should be repealed; but in repealing that Act it was necessary to point out that there were certain improvements in the machinery required if equal justice was to be done to all. It appeared that in the machinery for varying tithe rentcharge, and which still applied to lay tithe-owners, there were many curious features, and there were pitfalls which were very difficult to understand. One of the conditions was that the parish out of which the tithe arose must be all situated in one county, and if the parish was situated in two counties, which in the part of the country where he lived was a very common thing indeed, then the payers of the tithe rentcharge were prevented from going into Court at all. Then it was provided that no less than three payers of tithe rentcharge in one particular parish must join in application, and in giving notice to get the tithe rentcharge varied. If there were only two in the parish, they could not move, or if one of the three made a mistake in the serving of his notices the other two were upset, and it was very difficult, and sometimes almost impossible, to get anything done. That was a mere matter of machinery, upon which he would not dwell, but which he would commend to the notice of his noble and learned Friend (Lord Ashbourne). In regard to the second head of his notice, whether, and to what extent, such ecclesiastical tithe rentcharge could be reduced or extinguished at the present time (or at some future date) without material prejudice to the security of the loans at present charged upon the Irish Church Estate, he was quite aware there was matter of policy underlying it which was quite outside the limits of this inquiry and into which he did not propose to go, but he desired to give a few figures in reference to the finance of the matter. He believed originally there was charged on the Irish Church Fund, not merely on the tithe rentcharge but on all the funds, a sum of nine millions to commute the life interest of the clergy of the Irish Church. That was a sinking fund loan, and he understood that in 4½ years (*i.e.*, by December 1901), that loan would entirely be repaid, and that in consequence a very large sum of money, amounting to £328,000 a year, would be set free. According to the statement set out in the Land Commission Report, 1896, the charge on the fund of about £328,000 a year, payable to the National Debt Commissioners, would terminate in 1901. This amount being set free, would, of course, greatly increase the security of many other loans raised for other purposes. He had read from Mr. O'Brien's statement that some of those loans were made to purchasers which in the ordinary course would have been charged to Imperial revenue; but he was quite ready to admit that the great loan of nine millions for the Irish clergy stood on quite a different footing. It was to buy up the life interests of the clergy, and such payments, had the Church Act not passed, they would have been entitled to receive in perpetuity. He could not say for a moment that it was not quite fair that this loan should have been charged to the fund; but he did say that when that loan had been repaid, he felt that it would no longer be fair that one limited class of the taxpayers in Ireland should have to meet all the other charges which, but for the accidental existence of that fund, would have been charged on the Imperial revenue. He admitted that it was quite true that, whether the landlord paid tithe or the tenant, it came out of the land. Academically, he did not wish to dispute that proposition; but if the tithe had not been put upon the landlord in 1838, and the farmers had had to pay it now, he did not suppose it would be disputed that there would have been such an agitation for relief as it would have been impossible to resist. ["Hear, hear!"] Having gone over the merits of the case, he would tell their Lordships why he now brought the matter forward. He had told his friends in the Landlords' Convention in Ireland that he had done all that he possibly could for them in getting the concession in the Act of 1896, but he was pressed to bring this matter forward again, and there was one reason why he could not refuse—because, if the Local Government Bill which had been promised for next year was brought in, he supposed they would find that every fund of that sort would be swept into its net in some way or another; and he wished that the just claims should be established before the balance of the Irish Church Fund was appropriated for other matters. In conclusion, he had only once more to refer to Lord Waterford's Debate on the question in 1888. In that year Lord Waterford brought the matter before the House, and made a very powerful speech. He was supported by the late Lord Fitzgerald (who was then one of the Lords of Appeal) and by the late Lord Milltown, who had been one of the Commissioners of Earl Cowper's Commission, and Lord Cadogan (now Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, but who was then Lord Privy Seal and had charge of the Irish business in that House), on behalf of the Government, made the following reply. He said:—

> "The remarks of the noble Marquess with regard to the present position of the Irish landlords met, he was sure, with the sympathy of nearly all the Members of their Lordships' House. It was impossible to deny that the noble Marquess had brought forward a very serious and substantial grievance. The noble and learned Lord opposite (Lord Fitzgerald) had stated that the claim which the noble Marquess had made was one which was strictly in accordance with justice, and he (Earl Cadogan) believed that in saying that he did not go one whit beyond the actual state of the case. The Government recognised the difficulties under which the Irish landlords laboured in regard to rentcharge, and it was their anxious wish to afford a remedy for a state of things which nobody could deny required immediate attention and consideration. It was, unfortunately, impossible to do this without legislation, and—to repeat a remark which it was his duty to make before during the present Session—it was also impossible to entertain the hope that legislation initiated at this period of the year would have any prospect of passing through both Houses of Parliament this Session. That being the case, he did not think it would be consistent, either with his duty or with the convenience of the House, that he should follow his noble Friend through the statements he had made and the arguments he had adduced, which would be more properly dealt with when the Measure was brought before their Lordships' House, which it would be the duty of Her Majesty's Government to introduce. When he stated that this subject was under the anxious consideration of the Government, with a view to taking such steps in the direction sketched by the noble Marquess as might be feasible, he could assure his noble Friend that he was stating that which was actually the fact. It was the sincere desire of Her Majesty's Government, with as little delay as possible, to formulate their proposals, and lay them upon the Table of the House."

He (Lord Belmore) did not ask for legislation this Session—he knew that was impossible—but he asked that the Government should in some effective form appoint some skilled persons to inquire into the facts of the case with a view to legislation next year, and with that object he moved the Motion of which he had given notice. [*Cheers.*]

THE EARL OF MAYO said that he should like to emphasise that portion of the reply of the Earl of Cadogan in which he said:—

> "it was the sincere desire of Her Majesty's Government, with as little delay as possible, to formulate their proposals and lay them on the Table of the House."

That was in 1888. Since then there had been a change of Government, and now their Friends were again on the Front Bench. But they had heard nothing of this tithe rentcharge. It had been put before their Lordships' House before, but they had got very little sympathy on the subject. He hoped that after what Lord Belmore had said the matter would be really taken into serious consideration by the noble Lords who were now at the head of affairs. They were put off and put off, he supposed because they were Irish landlords. But there would be a time coming, he thought, when they could not stand being put off very much longer. Their cup was filled almost to overflowing, and he hoped that the noble Lords now in command of one of the strongest coalition Governments they had ever seen would listen, at all events with some sympathy and interest, to a small body of loyal gentlemen and noblemen who live in Ireland. ["Hear, hear!"]

THE EARL OF DENBIGH said he could safely say that, on the general question of the tithe rentcharge raised by the noble Earl, the Government regarded the grievances of the Irish land-owners with very considerable sympathy, and they hoped it might not be found impossible to carry out legislation which would afford relief, even if the entire proposals of the landowners could not be wholly met. The whole question was under the careful consideration of the Government, who were in full possession of the facts, and therefore they did not admit the necessity for a Royal Commission to inquire any further. The noble Earl who raised this matter spoke of the concession made last year by the clause in the Land Act. He would remind their Lordships that by that clause, in the case of land sold to tenants under the Land Purchase Acts, the Land Commission had been given the power to order repayment of the outstanding annual instalments at a sum calculated on the basis of the annual payments being for a term of 45 years instead of 52 years; and the Chief Secretary, in his speech on the introduction of the Bill, stated that the Government recognised the principle to be one of general application, and therefore he thought the noble Earl and his Friends could safely look for some relief in this direction. Further concessions might also be possible in the direction of reducing the number of years' purchase on which the redemption price of tithe was now calculated and of putting it at a less amount than 22½ years' purchase. There might possibly, too, be a reconsideration of the interest now charged. With regard to the other matter raised by the noble Earl, and his demand that the Act of 1872 should be repealed, he would remind the House that that Act stereotyped the amount of tithe rentcharge, and any repeal of it would involve a great disturbance of the whole arrangements made during recent years for the employment of the Church Fund, and which arrangements were based on the assumption that the amount of the charge was permanently fixed; and it would be extremely undesirable to re-open now and alter the fund from a fixed to a variable sum. He would only remind the noble Earl, in conclusion, that in dealing with any of these subjects legislation would be necessary, and he hoped that in spite of the attitude of the noble Earl (the Earl of Mayo), the landowners of Ireland would still have a little more patience—[*laughter*]—and would be comforted by the reflection that the Government hoped to be able to do something for their relief. ["Hear, hear!"]

*THE EARL OF ERNE said they had been told that this matter would receive the anxious consideration of the Government. They had been told that before. ["Hear, hear!" *and laughter.*] They had received not very much consolation from the result, but he thought he detected in the speech of his noble Friend on the Front Bench one or two small indications that the Government intended to do something, at all events, in this matter, though that something did not go so far as they could wish. In this view, and to give the Government the opportunity of making a further announcement on this point, he begged to move the adjournment of the Debate. ["Hear, hear!"]

Motion agreed to; Debate adjourned to Friday next.

VOLUNTARY SCHOOLS ASSOCIATIONS.

*LORD WANTAGE asked the Lord President of Council the following Questions with reference to the formation of associations of Voluntary Schools: whether the Education Department will take steps to prevent the supporters and managers of Voluntary Schools in Berkshire from being deprived of their right to have effect given to their choice of the county as the area of association; whether his attention has been called to the fact that, prior to the meeting of the Oxford Diocesan Conference in May last, the rural deans issued circulars to the correspondents of the school managers throughout the county of Berks asking them to ascertain if their co-managers were willing to join an association of schools for the county; and (if willing to join such an association) to elect two representatives to be thereafter summoned to a meeting by the rural deans for the purpose of electing two delegates for each rural deanery, such delegates to form the governing body of the county association. That the consent of the managers having been so obtained to a county association, the Oxford Diocesan Conference met and passed a resolution that the area should be the diocese and not the county. That, thereupon the representatives whom the managers elected for the purpose of carrying out the scheme of a county association were induced in many cases to proceed with the election of delegates for a diocesan scheme without any fresh application to the managers for authority to consent to such an important change; and whether returns are being made to the Education Department that the managers have selected the diocese as the area of association notwithstanding the above facts, and in disregard of the resolution to the contrary passed at a meeting of school managers for the county held at Reading on the 12th instant; and of the important petition to the Department signed by the Lord Lieutenant, the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the County Council, all the County and Borough Members in Berks, and a large number of the Magistrates and Members of the County Council. He said the matter was of some local importance and of some public interest. There was, he thought, some probability of a considerable area of the county known as the county of Berks being compelled to do that which they had no desire to do, and which they had taken every possible means in their power to avoid doing. The beneficent Act of Parliament passed this year was exceedingly short and said little beyond that a certain sum of money, not exceeding 5s. per head, was to be divided amongst the necessitous schools. It brought into existence a new constituency, who were the school managers, but it gave no information as to how the Act was to be put into force. That being so, he thought some consideration was due by Parliament, and that some sympathetic assistance ought to be given to those who, in putting the Act in force in its earlier stages, had fallen into errors—errors which they were not able to avoid by reason of the brevity of the Act. There were two parties who had, as he thought, made mistakes in this matter. He thought the laity did very little at first in putting the Act into operation, and he thought some valuable time was lost in that way. On the other hand, the clergy acted with great promptitude, tutored and guided by the National Association, and moved by an amount of religious zeal—he thought he might almost say unnecessary religious zeal, and, in a certain measure, by a spirit of want of confidence in their lay brethren. Under these circumstances they acted in a manner to take possession, in a sense, of the management of these associations. Since he put his notice on the Paper he had by request twice postponed it, and in the meantime he believed he had convinced the Education Department that some mistakes had been made. He had shown the Department that 128 schools out of 203 or 204 had declared their willingness to join a county area, and if he could rest assured that those 128 schools would be permitted to join such an area he would simply put the first paragraph of his question, namely:—

> "Whether the Education Department will take steps to prevent the supporters and managers of Voluntary Schools in Berkshire from being deprived of their right to have effect given to their choice of the county as the area of association?"

The later part of his notice was of a controversial character, and he would not put it unless any of their Lordships thought he ought to attempt to make good the allegations it contained.

*LORD STANMORE said that before the noble Duke answered the question he wished to ask leave of their Lordships to say a few words from a different point of view to that adopted by his noble Friend. In so doing, he believed he only carried out his noble Friend's wishes. He had known him long, and had ever found him one of the fairest and justest of men, and he was, therefore, confident that he would desire the opinions of those who did not agree with him to be represented to their Lordships as fully and as clearly as he had stated his own. Let him say at the outset that he did not himself attribute so much importance to the area selected for school association as seemed to be attached to it by many persons. He could not regard it as one in the decision of which any great principle was at stake. It seemed to him to be one entirely of administrative convenience. That area would be the best which was likely to prove most satisfactory in working. His reasons, as a Berkshire freeholder, for preferring a diocesan to a county area were two. In the first place, it was a more economical arrangement, involving a necessity for one official staff only where three would otherwise be required; and in the second place the wider the area of the association the larger will the area be for the distribution to necessitous schools of any funds at the disposal of the Association. So desirable was a wide area of Association considered to be in many competent quarters, that he knew some very eminent and influential educational authorities thought it would be best to have the whole of England divided into only two or three areas of Association, and there was much to be said in favour of such a view. But, however that may be, and whatever might be theoretically the best basis for Association, he was entirely at one with his noble Friend in thinking that as a matter of practical politics, if the Berkshire schools and managers wished the county and not the diocese to form the area of association, their wishes ought to be regarded—nay, more, that if the scheme was to be carried out successfully, they must be so. But did such a preference for a county association exist, as was assumed by his noble Friend? It might be so; he did not say that it did not; but what he did say was that his noble Friend had not in any way proved it. His noble Friend might have convinced the Education Department that a majority of schools were in favour of a county area, but he did not think he had convinced their Lordships, and certainly had not convinced him. In assuming that it was the case, his noble Friend relied on three things—a meeting, certain post card returns, and a petition. Now, first as to the meeting summoned by his noble Friend at Reading. He understood, from authority which he believed to be unquestionable, that at that meeting only about 70 schools were represented out of over 230 in the county. Of those present nearly a third declined to vote at all, and there was a minority vote, though not a large one, in favour of a diocesan area.

*Lord WANTAGE: Pardon me for interrupting my noble Friend, but he is wrong. A majority voted for the county area.

*Lord STANMORE: Precisely. That was what he was saying. He said there was a minority vote, not a majority one, in favour of the diocese. What he was trying to show was that their Lordships must see that a meeting representing only about a third of the schools in the county and of which a considerable proportion either voted against the Motion proposed or did not vote at all, could not be considered by its decision to have spoken with the voice of the county. The fact was that the great majority of the managers, with the greatest respect for the noble Lord, did not admit that the Lord Lieutenant as such had any authority over them, or any right in that capacity to summon them together at all. The fact that this meeting could not be regarded as altogether satisfactory by his noble Friend, was practically admitted by his noble Friend himself, by the issue of post card circulars to the managers on the answers to which he so strongly relied. Now there were two things he should very much like to learn from his noble Friend, and those were how he ascertained, or thought he ascertained, who the managers were, and, secondly, what number of cards he had issued. The noble Lord had received about 600 answers, of which 400 were in favour of a county area and 200 of a diocesan one. Now, so far as he could ascertain, there was nowhere any list in existence of the school managers of the counties. Those most likely to know, the Bishop and the Archdeacon, were quite ignorant of their names or number, and knew no means of ascertaining them, but they were roughly estimated by the Bishop to be from 1,800 to 2,000. His noble Friend was therefore in this dilemma—either he issued his question to only a small minority of the school managers, or more than two-thirds of them had declined to send any answer whatever to his circular. Nor was this all. He thought they might safely assume that the noble Lord's question had been answered by most of those in agreement with him, and that the great majority of these who abstained from answering were against him. But, again, the number of managers bore no relation to the number of schools—some had many, some had few. In the parish with which he was more immediately connected, there were 15 managers; in an adjacent parish there were 12; but other schools as large and efficient had only two or three. Was it to be desired that two schools having many managers should have their wishes considered equal to those of half-a-dozen other schools having but few? These post-card answers on the whole furnished him with strong reason for suspecting that the diocesan area was preferred. Lastly there was the petition and protest—certainly adopted in ignorance of the scheme formulated. It was well signed. That it was so was a sign of the well-deserved respect and esteem enjoyed by his noble Friend, but it was little more. He should have signed it himself on that ground, and was inclined at first to do, but he first inquired into the matter and then found he could not honestly do so. That petition was published on the 23rd May. The scheme it objected to was framed on the 25th June. It objected to what did not then exist, and almost every objection raised by it had been met by the scheme as ultimately framed. The last question contained something which, whether his noble Friend meant it or not, was rather like a charge of bad faith. He should not enter on that subject. Perhaps the right rev. Prelate might have something to say on it. But he would shortly state what did take place. The managers of each school sent two of their number to a meeting in each Deanery. Those meetings elected delegates to frame a scheme. Now he had it on unquestionable authority that all those Deanery meetings were held after the publication of the protest, but, with a full knowledge of it, these meetings elected delegates who, by a majority of 53 to 4, selected the diocesan area. [Lord WANTAGE: "That was the whole diocese!"] Yes, but of the 18 Berkshire delegates 17 attended, of whom 13 voted for the diocesan area and only 4 against it. He regretted that charges of unwarrantable departure from an implied obligation had been made. The delegates when elected were not bound, but perfectly free to select the area they thought best. He regretted equally the reference made to clerical influence and episcopal pressure. Such insinuations were ill-founded, for the great majority of the delegates were laymen, quite free from episcopal influences, except those of argument and reason. And such imputations were ill-judged, for they provoked the retort that there were other influences and other modes of pressure than ecclesiastical ones, at least as powerful as any at a Bishop's disposal. His noble Friend had not told the House what was the evidence he had laid before the Education Department, and he thought it open to objection that official returns should be set aside on the strength of private information. But a charge of bad faith, even by implication, should be met, and he should wish to see all that had yet been done annulled, and the matter settled, not by postcards, not by private correspondence privately communicated to the Education Department, but in a constitutional way by reference again to the managers to elect representatives to decanal associations afresh by election of delegates from those areas and by a fresh decision by those delegates. ["Hear, hear!"]

*LORD WANTAGE said after the speech of the noble Lord he felt compelled to go forward. His remark would be that he had not gone behind the Education Department. He had given the information as fully as he could possibly do so, and it was as *bonâ fide* as he could get. There was no machinery to get the information in the way suggested by his noble Friend. He maintained that the action of the delegates entirely vitiated everything done at that Diocesan Conference. His noble Friend challenged him as to why he took this matter up. Well, he was one of the largest supporters of Voluntary Schools in the country—["hear, hear!"]—and he was Lord Lieutenant, and he had been urged by his friends to interfere. The Bishop of Oxford was the first to move in this matter. A resolution was moved with the assent of all the school managers that the county area be adopted as the area of the association, and that there should be not less than one half laymen. The Bishop of Reading moved that the diocese be the area. The speech of the Primate was circulated by thousands, and this had the effect he had stated. He thought that the speech made in Convocation was most unfortunate, and that it would have a mischievous effect on the education of the country at large. ["Hear, hear!"] The Archdeacon of Berkshire on the other hand stated that the Education Department would greatly prefer the Diocesan area because it was much larger, and he then indicated that an Amendment opposing the county area would be proposed. What authority the Archdeacon had for stating that the Education Department greatly preferred the diocesan area he did not know. But it had naturally great weight with those delegates who were present. Immediately after this the Bishop of Reading moved a Resolution, namely, that the diocese be the elected area, in conformity with the views which he said were expressed by the Primate. The Bishop added that if the diocese were adopted—

> "they would have the great advantage of having a strong representation of Church educational work, which could be brought to bear with all the power of a united diocese upon the Education Department itself. The prospect of a diocesan association becoming the engine and instrument of Church education in a diocese in itself would be an untold advantage. They would get rid of the parochial, and perhaps the individual factors, which had been the great impediment to all advance."

[*Opposition ironical cheers.*] The Bishop of Reading was followed by the Rural Dean of Newbury, who also advocated diocesan organisation and said:—

> "It ought to be a distinctive Church organisation, and should be exclusive; and they should not only not invite, but refuse to receive, the offers of any alien bodies to join their association. The Diocesan association would have the effect of doing away with that wretched parochialism which eats out the very heart of their Church life in their different parishes."

After these speeches the diocesan area was adopted by the Conference, and a further resolution, excluding Nonconformist schools was carried by a majority of 72 to 42. He regretted to have to quote these intolerant expressions used by his clerical friends, for whom he had much regard and respect, and with whom he had for many years past cordially associated in church and school work. But he had, from the position which he had the honour to hold, as Lord Lieutenant, and also as a large landowner and Voluntary School supporter, been selected as the spokesman for a very large body of laymen, and also of clergy, who wished to dissociate themselves from the diocesan area. Previous to the Diocesan Conference, a proposal was put forward by the Rural Deans of Berkshire and accepted by the delegates, that the county area should be adopted. He, as a school manager, gave his adhesion to that scheme. He was told it would be adopted, and believing in this assurance, he did not attend the Conference. The School Managers of Berkshire had selected representatives for the purpose of electing delegates to vote for a County Association. Upon the Oxford Conference changing round to the Diocesan, as against the County area, those same representatives who had been authorised by the Managers to elect delegates to a County Asociation were utilised for a purpose for which they had no mandate from the Managers, namely, to elect delegates for a Diocesan Association. This, in his opinion, altogether vitiated the decision which was come to. He had received the following letter from a county Magistrate:—

Lord Wantage.

> "The procedure adopted by the ecclesiastical authorities was, in my district, as follows: My colleague, who is a man of high authority in the educational world, and myself attended, as representatives of our managers, a meeting called by the Rural Dean to elect an executive committee for the county. On opening the meeting the Rural Dean announced that, two days before, the Diocesan Conference had decided in favour of Diocesan area, and he stated that it would be out of order for us to discuss the decision of the Conference—[*ironical Opposition cheers*]—and that it only remained for us to vote. [*Opposition laughter.*] Therefore I took the point that my authority was to vote for a county committee. The result is that the Diocesan Association is in possession, but it is not so in consequence of a fair expression of opinion by managers. As regards laymen, they were taken by surprise.

His noble Friend had challenged him as to the way in which he had obtained the vote which he had now placed in the hands of the Education Department. As a school manager, he had as much right to put the Act into operation as any other person, whether clergyman or even Bishop. The idea shadowed forth by the Bishop of Reading in his speech, showed a misapprehension of the intention of the Act, the object of which was to maintain Voluntary Schools. The 5s. grant was for that purpose alone, and was not intended to become an instrument for Church Education, or for getting rid of parochial or individual factors. [*Opposition cheers.*]

THE BISHOP OF OXFORD said that he must remonstrate with the way in which this matter had been put before the House. Mistakes must have been made—probably all round—but a mistake ought not to be put forward as an attempt at fraud, for that was the clear inference which must be drawn from the noble Lord's speech.

*LORD WANTAGE: I must disclaim anything of the sort.

THE BISHOP OF OXFORD: I am quite sure, my dear Lord Wantage, that you do. [*Laughter.*] There was no landowner in his diocese for whom he had a greater respect and affection than Lord Wantage, and he dared say that the noble Lord reciprocated those feelings; but he had dissembled his love most terribly. [*Laughter.*] He felt bound to stand up for his friends who had been working hard in this matter since March. There were many things which he and Lord Wantage approached from such entirely different points of view that it was possible for them to come to almost contradictory conclusions without there being any ground for an imputation of bad faith or of using powers for one purpose when they were given for another. As for the diocesan association of schools, he believed it to be the most economical, the safest, and on the whole the most conducive to the good of education in Berkshire, and he was sorry that personal questions had been introduced into the discussion. It was true that in the first instance there was an idea in favour of a smaller area—the ruridiaconal area of the union. But, after considering the matter with the laymen and clergymen who were working with him, he came to the conclusion that a county area would be advisable. The managers of schools were asked to elect delegates to an association. Those delegates received, as he understood, and as they understood, not merely authority to vote for a county area, but to represent the interests of their schools. After the delegates had been appointed, the Oxford Diocesan Conference—an entirely different body, containing three laymen to every clergyman—met, and he put before them the view that a diocesan association would be best. A private Member proposed the county area, but the former suggestion was approved. The vote, however, as he explained to the Conference, bound no one; it merely expressed their views. Then the delegates were called together, and they accepted the proposal of a diocesan organisation, electing himself as president. He thought he might have been spared the accusations which Lord Wantage had made, though probably without meaning to make them. Every single point was fully considered, and he thought those Gentlemen who preferred a county area might have put their views before him at the proper time.

*LORD HENEAGE said he thought it would be well if the whole thing were done over again. In Lincolnshire, had it not been for the National Society and the unfortunate speech of the Primate, opinion would have been unanimous, and an association would have been formed two months ago. The difference existing was a slight one—of name only, for in Lincolnshire the diocese and the county were identical. But in Lincolnshire the Churchmen and the Nonconformists were about equally divided. There was a strong feeling among the laity, a large portion of the clergy, the subscribers, the voluntary ratepayers, and the parents of the children, that the association should be a county association, open to all denominations; and many objected very strongly to being brought into an association which was purely and entirely for Church schools. There were 505 schools in the county, of which 390 were really or technically Church schools. There were very few purely Church Schools, and they were in the towns, and it was the town party and those under the influence of the National Society in smaller parishes who desired to promote the Diocesan Association of Church Schools. Of 390 so-called Church Schools 300 were really mixed schools, and, for all practical purposes, undenominational schools, managed by Committees, on which all denominations were represented. The voluntary rates or subscriptions were paid by all denominations alike, and the children of all denominations attended the schools. The religious question had been amicably settled and put on one side to keep out Board Schools, and the schools were carried on by the co-operation and forbearance of all denominations. Rightly or wrongly there was a strong feeling among the parents of the children, the subscribers, and voluntary ratepayers, against coming into a Diocesan Association entirely under Diocesan control, which would be used for Church purposes. Mr. R. W. Perks, M.P., said the other day that they objected to the money earned going for an association to be used entirely for the Church, and, if so applied, he and others were prepared to subscribe largely to set a rival Nonconformist Voluntary School in every parish in Lincolnshire. From his own knowledge of Lincolnshire he was sure they could do it, and if they did it they would be able to compel the Church of England to give up many of her schools and force Board Schools into their places. This being the case, it was not to be wondered at that there was a strong feeling among landowners, the clergy, and the laity generally, that to have a Diocesan Association would only bring discord into those parishes, imperil the state of the schools, and the good feeling that now existed. There was no ill feeling against the Bishop of the Diocese. A Bishop more popular in his diocese did not exist than the Bishop of Lincoln. ["Hear, hear!"] But it was feared that the Association would be used by the National Society and those who supported it. The Diocesan Board of Education framed a scheme, and it was adopted at a large and representative meeting over which the Bishop of Lincoln presided, and a requisition was signed by him and others asking the High Sheriff to call a formal meeting of the managers of the schools. It was considered that everything was settled. There were to be 470 schools in the Association, including 390 *bonâ fide* Church Schools and technically Church Schools; about 60 parochial schools; and 16 British schools. But before the meeting took place all the Church School managers, churchwardens, and sidesmen who could be got together, assembled, and the scheme adopted by the Diocesan Board of Education was rejected in a very riotous and unseemly meeting which broke up in such disorder that they forgot to put their resolution to the meeting. [*Laughter.*] Although the original scheme was rejected, no other scheme was adopted, and from that day to this there had been no meeting of delegates from the various schools, or any meeting recognised under the Act. But friends of the Diocesan Association had met at private meetings, and meetings in the rural deaneries, and they had elected a certain number of delegates, persons who supported the diocesan scheme, which did not exist, although in the circular sent out to obtain the assent of the school managers, it was stated that a Diocesan Association had been formed. A great change of front afterwards took place. On 2nd or 3rd July they met again and adopted the very scheme of the Diocesan Board of Education which they rejected on 28th May, to induce all who desired a County Association to come in. The title "Lincoln Diocesan Association of Voluntary Schools" had been substituted for that of "Lincoln County Association of Voluntary Schools." All schools would be able to join the new association, but there was this difference. Under the county scheme the governing body was to be freely elected by the delegates sent from each school, whereas it was proposed now that the governing body should be that elected for the purpose of a Church scheme. He was certain that those who had acted with him in this matter would never consent to come in under the governing body as at present constituted. He would like to test the question and ask the Bishop of Lincoln whether, if those in favour of the county scheme joined them, they were prepared to let everything they had done "go by the board," and allow a fresh governing body to be elected by the delegates of the schools willing to be associated. He was only too glad to see the original scheme adopted, and would be only too glad to see a united association. But if the Church party were to have an association open to all denominations, they must give up all they had done in the election of a governing body, and then it might be possible to find a *via media.*

THE BISHOP OF LINCOLN in a maiden speech, said he believed it was the custom of their Lordships' House to extend indulgence to those who addressed it for the first time, and he asked that that indulgence might be extended to him now. ["Hear, hear!"] There were one or two points bearing on the question referred to in the speech of the noble Lord, which he felt it his duty to allude to. First of all the noble Lord said in his question that it appeared there was some attempt to force a purely diocesan association on the Church of England Schools. They never made any such attempt, nor had they any desire to force such an association on any members of the diocese whatever. What they did was simply to send to the rural deans the form of paper which had now become very common, which was issued by the National Society, requesting them to bring it before the managers of the several schools, and ask them whether they would or would not join the Association. The result was that out of some 450 schools 364 had joined the Association they proposed to them. He thought that was a very fair result. He could not accept the figures of the noble Lord. He had had the figures given him by a competent authority, and they stood thus on his paper: the number of Church or National Schools 394, parochial schools 56, so that the number of 450 was thus made up, and out of these schools 364 had accepted the scheme which they laid before them.

*LORD HENEAGE: The figures I have quoted were given me by the Secretary for the Lincoln Diocesan Association, and quoted by me to the meeting I have referred to on the 28th May.

THE BISHOP OF LINCOLN said there was also mentioned here that the undenominational county association had been received and generally approved by letter by the clerical managers of the schools in rural parishes. The noble Lord gave an account of the meeting which took place when the scheme was proposed by the Diocesan Board. Perhaps he might be allowed to add one or two points. The scheme was formulated by the executive committee of the Diocesan Board, and when that was submitted by the Diocesan Board it was accepted and carried against himself and several others who voted and spoke against it. Out of that meeting arose a desire that there should be called a county meeting in order that it might be ascertained what was the wish of all the managers of the Voluntary Schools. He gave his hearty concurrence to that desire, and the meeting was called. It was largely attended by managers, lay and clerical. He hardly knew exactly the meaning the noble Lord wished to attribute to the word "sidesmen," but they were all managers who voted—laymen as well as clergymen—and by an overwhelming majority they overthrew the plan which had been prepared by the Executive Committee and accepted by the Diocesan Board. The noble Lord himself admitted this, and he said, "We are overthrown, and we will not prolong the controversy further." He thanked the noble Lord that very evening for his generous conduct in not prolonging the controversy, and he had then replied to him, stating that he must not be taken as meaning that he thoroughly withdrew. The Executive Committee who formulated this scheme was so firmly convinced that it had been rejected by that large meeting of managers called by the High Sheriff that they held a meeting and decided that they must resign their office as the Executive Committee. Out of kindness to himself, and for the convenience of the diocese, they agreed to continue in office until the next quarterly meeting, which was last Friday. Last Friday they met. The Executive Committee tendered their resignation, and this was accepted, and then, as soon as their resignation had been accepted, he proposed that they should all be re-elected, and so they were. [*Laughter.*] Out of 30 members there were only two who did not accept re-election. One of these, for private reasons, was unable to do so, therefore there was only one who did not accept re-election. He was pleased to be able to tell their Lordships of the very happy position they were now in. The Executive Committee were entirely in accord with the Education Board generally, and also with himself, and they had also passed a resolution that they wished to support the association which they had promoted, and the scheme which they had sent up to the Department. He did not know how they really could have acted on a more correct line. Certainly they were now in accord in the matter. It appeared by the last paragraph of the noble Lord's question that some protection was needed for undenominational schemes. He was in a very awkward position, physically, standing there, because he was one of those who did not obey that terrible mandate of the most rev. Prelate sitting beneath him. He hoped the most rev. Prelate would not exercise any severe discipline against him. He could not conscientiously do it, Lincolnshire being very largely dwelt in by honourable and religious Nonconformists. Therefore the association they had now proposed in the scheme they had sent up was to be called the Lincoln Diocesan Association of Voluntary Schools, and it was provided that the association should be "open to all church, national, parochial, and other Voluntary Schools within the area." He failed himself to see that they had tyrannised in any way in this matter.

Earl SPENCER was afraid he must add another complaint to those from Berkshire and Lincolnshire, and give another example of the unfortunate omission, as it seemed to him, from the recent Education Act of any machinery for the working of these associations. He regretted extremely that the right rev. Prelate who had lately been appointed to the diocese of Northampton was not yet in the House, but he felt bound to state what had occurred in that county in corroboration to some extent of what had been done in other counties, as they had heard stated in the House. First of all, however, he should like to say he was quite sure the right rev. Bishop of Oxford was in error in supposing his noble Friend the Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire wished to impute any fraud to the Diocesan Council of Oxfordshire. But what he did believe had been done had been done—if arbitrary was too strong a word—then in a very heedless and careless manner. He would just explain what had occurred in his own county. There had been for many years a Church Education Society in the county to which he had subscribed ever since 1857. A quarterly meeting of that society was held after the Education Bill became an Act. The Bishop was in the chair, 19 out of 21 rural deaneries were represented, and a resolution was adopted that the association should be a county association. The same thing happened in Leicestershire, the Church Education Society there also passing a resolution to the same effect. Upon that the Bishop of Northamptonshire issued a circular to all the managers of schools desiring them to elect in each rural deanery two delegates to meet in order that the governing body of this association might be elected. These representatives and managers of schools met in each rural deanery and elected a representative body of delegates to meet at Peterborough. He wished it to be particularly noted that these delegates were all elected on the clear understanding, as stated by the Bishop's own letter, that the association should be a county association. When they met, although elected under perfectly different conditions, they voted, on the motion of a clergyman outside Northamptonshire, that the association should be diocesan. Upon that, the Bishop issued another circular to the managers, asking them for information with regard to their reports from the Education Department, and so on, and nothing more was said with regard to the change of front. He believed there was some communication from the Education Department, and a further circular was sent out by the Bishop with a very significant postscript added, in which the Bishop said the managers were then to declare whether they would join the diocesan association. As far as he could gather, neither in Northamptonshire nor Leicestershire would this association stand. It was not a formal and legal association, because these delegates—this governing body—sent to Peterborough were elected on a perfectly different basis, and they had no business at that meeting to change the association from a county to a diocesan association. He thought this was a very serious matter. He ventured, when the Bill was before the House, to say he regretted extremely that this public money of the taxpayer should be diverted into what he considered were entirely Church channels. He was afraid he incurred the gentle rebuke on this subject of the right rev. Primate, for whom he had such great respect. But he confessed he still held the opinion that it would be a great misfortune, not only to the country, but to the Church itself, if these voluntary associations were worked from an entirely Church point of view. He was afraid the whole tendency would be in that direction. What his noble Friend (Lord Heneage) had said was of the greatest importance; he had pointed out how in many schools called Church Schools large numbers of scholars were children of Nonconformists, and that certainly was the case in his own county. He did not happen to be manager of a school, because when in office he had found himself unable to attend to the duties, but for many years local schools had had the support of members of his family, and he knew what went on in the schools. Only the day before yesterday he was in conversation with the able ecclesiastical manager of one of these schools, who told him that he had sent in a notice to join an association, but he had some difficulty in getting his committee to agree. Upon

Bishop of Lincoln.

that committee were several Nonconformists who did not like the Act. There was difficulty in getting the committee to join the association, and now that it had been turned into a diocesan association, he had withdrawn. That would be the case in a great many instances. But he desired to know from the noble Duke who was about to reply whether the Department considered that associations formed in the manner described were legal associations, or whether the whole process must be begun again. He attached great importance to this, and supported what his noble Friend, Lord Heneage, had said. He did not attribute any intention to deceive on the part of those who had acted as described, but he thought the arrangements to carry out the plan had been hurried, reckless, and arbitrary.

THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY: As a great deal has been said about what the Archbishop of Canterbury has done, it is right that I should say a few words on the subject before us. I certainly think that the purpose of this Act being to support Voluntary Schools existing really for the purpose of maintaining religious education, it is distinctly best that associations should recognise the fact. In course of time Voluntary Schools will disappear unless religious education is the main point of view of the managers, and the tendency of associations which are undenominational is to draw schools gradually to be very little other than Board Schools supported by subscriptions. If schools themselves become undenominational, what becomes of the reason which is given for maintaining them at all? The great body of subscribers will say, "Why not have a School Board?" Church Schools stand because they teach Church doctrines, and are you to have nothing distinctive of Church teaching in the schools? I should say this—I cannot help it if people will listen to me, it is not my fault if there are certain portions of the country where the opinions of the Primate of All England have some weight—I speak from conviction, if you are to support Voluntary Schools, which is the purpose of the Act, you must not leave the religious question outside or endeavour in any way to shunt it. ["Hear, hear!"] In the notices circulated there was no interference with the liberty of school managers to elect the sort of governing body they themselves preferred, or any interference with the choice of area which should define the boundaries of the association. I am very desirous that everywhere there should be perfect freedom, but I venture to think that it is not out of place for me to say what my opinion is, and if others attach some importance to that opinion I do not think I am to be blamed for that. ["Hear, hear!"]

THE LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL (The DUKE of DEVONSHIRE): I think it is very much to be regretted that some of my noble Friends have not put some questions to me at an earlier period on the general principles concerning these matters, and if they had taken the trouble to do so, the answers might have made it unnecessary to enter into a great many of those local questions which have been raised to-day and discussed here at some length, questions with which the Education Department have absolutely nothing to do and with which I venture to think your Lordships' House has nothing whatever to do, however interesting they may be to noble Lords and right rev. Prelates in various parts of the country. ["Hear, hear!"] The general answer—before I attempt to answer in detail questions or some parts of the questions put on the Paper—the general answer I have to give is that the Education Department is prepared to accept, and has taken every means of making known that it is prepared to accept, either diocesan or county areas as the means of association for Voluntary Schools. Further, that they are in certain cases, especially in cases where the diocese contains more than one county or where the diocesan and county areas are not coterminous, prepared to accept two associations, although they may to some extent overlap each other. They are prepared to do this in accordance with the view acceptable to the managers of the schools themselves. It is with the managers of the schools themselves and them alone that the Education Department is concerned. ["Hear, hear!"] My noble Friend (Lord Stanmore) said in the course of his observations that schools were inarticulate or to the effect that a school could not say what it wished and could not give a vote.

*LORD STANMORE: I had no intention of saying anything of that kind.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: Something to the effect that a school could not express an opinion.

*LORD STANMORE: I am afraid I expressed myself badly; what I wished to say was that the school as represented by the manager, was exactly the unit that ought to express an opinion, but that managers taken as individuals were not the persons to whom to look for a decision.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: Certainly I failed to understand my noble Friend; but I say so far are schools from being inarticulate and unable to express an opinion, that they have a very effective means of expressing opinions on such questions as these. Every Voluntary School has a correspondent who is recognised by the Department, and through this correspondent managers must decide what answer they propose to make to the inquiries made by the Department, and, that being given to the Department, the Department will act accordingly. But with all these preliminary proceedings which noble Lords have been discussing this afternoon the Education Department and, I think, this House, have no concern whatever. Forms have been issued, and when filled up and returned the Department will be enabled to judge what association is adopted by the majority; in putting a sufficient number of schools in each district, and upon the information supplied in these forms, the Department will act, and it has absolutely no concern with any of these preliminary proceedings which are only a means of enabling managers to form opinions they will hereafter have to express to the Department. I do not think after what has been said that my noble Friend (Lord Wantage) desires a categorical answer to each question he has put. My noble Friend stated that he believes he has now satisfied the Department that the wish of the majority of Voluntary Schools in Berkshire is for the county as opposed to the diocesan area, and my noble Friend Lord Stanmore inquired how he had satisfied the Department of the fact. I am not aware that he has satisfied the Department, nor is it necessary that he should, that the majority of the schools in Berkshire desire county association. A diocesan area has already been provisionally accepted, but the letter which conveyed that provisional acceptance notified that it must be understood that the provisional approval of this diocesan association does not preclude the Department from approving an association of Voluntary Schools for the county of Berks if the scheme for such association is put before the Department on behalf of and with the authority of a sufficient number of Voluntary Schools to form an effective association for the purposes of the Act. If my noble Friend is satisfied that 126 Voluntary Schools in Berks prefer county association, and if the forms when received confirm, as no doubt they will, that information, then provisional sanction will be given to a county association for Berks, though it will, to a certain extent, overlap the district of the diocesan area to which also provisional sanction has been given. That, I believe, disposes of so much of the question of my noble Friend as appears to require answer. In reply to my noble Friend Lord Heneage, I have to say that, up to the present time, eight schemes have been finally approved, and 48 have received provisional approval. In fact, I am very glad to be able to state that the formation of associations is going on quite as rapidly as could have been expected, and I am also happy to state, that with the exception of the cases that have this afternoon been brought before the House, with very little or no friction whatever. ["Hear, hear!"] He next asks me whether it is intended to extend the period for the formation of such associations under the Act. No doubt my noble Friend refers to the circular issued on April 9, in which the Department intimated that it was desirable that associations should be formed within three months from date. This was intended to warn managers that they might suffer loss from undue delay rather than to fix an exact date, and it has produced the desired result. In cases where exceptional difficulty has been experienced in the formation of associations the Department will take steps to secure that delay shall not entail any loss. The third question relates to the historical statement my noble Friend has repeated to-day, with which, as I have said, the Department has absolutely nothing to do. Debates, resolutions, meetings, whether of diocesan conferences or summoned in any other way, the Department has no cognisance of whatever, and we can only judge by the results we receive in answer to our circular. In reply to the fourth question, as to whether certain statements which have been made are accurate, it is no doubt true that the Department wishes that as many Voluntary Schools as possible should join associations, and should thereby avail themselves of the machinery which is provided by the Voluntary Schools Act, and it is also true that a school which associates this year with a diocesan or any other association, can withdraw next year, and will not be in a worse position than if it had not associated at all. ["Hear, hear!"] As to the last question, in which he asks what steps it is proposed to take for the assistance and protection of undenominational as well as British and other schools, the information which the Department has received is that the British and other denominational schools generally desire to form separate associations of their own. If, however, there are any, in any district, who do not desire to enter into any such association, and wish to join either a county or diocesan association composed chiefly of Church Schools, the Department will endeavour to see, as far as it is in its power, that the rules of the association are such as will secure to them adequate protection. And, I may say, in reference to something which fell from my noble Friend just now, that if it is the fact, as he, I think, stated, that it is proposed, in the association which is now being formed in the diocese of Lincolnshire, that all undenominational schools should be invited to join it, but should not be provided by the scheme with any part in the management, such a scheme would probably not receive the sanction of the Department—["hear, hear!"]—as being not representative, as the Act requires, of the managers of the schools represented in that association. My noble Friend Lord Spencer not having put down any question, I am not in a position to give him any information as to what has taken place in the diocese of Peterborough or in the county of Northampton. I may, however, state, although perhaps I shall only be repeating what I have said before, that nothing which has taken place at any meetings and none of the votes to which my noble Friend has referred, are in any way conclusive upon this matter. What the Department has to look to is the expressed wish of the schools themselves, and, if my noble Friend, or those with whom he acts in the county, still are of opinion that a county association for Northamptonshire will be a better organisation than a diocesan association, they have only to convert the managers of the schools themselves to that opinion and to induce them to fill up their returns in that sense. We cannot, however, be responsible for the way in which the opinions of the managers have been obtained. We cannot be aware of what pressure may have been put upon them from one quarter or from another quarter. All that we can be guided by is their expressed wish, which we have afforded them the means of giving, and in which they have ample opportunity of stating what association, formed on what basis and with what constitution, they desire to join. With reference to what fell from the most rev. Prelate the Archbishop of Canterbury, I certainly am not entirely able to understand the point of view from which he looks at this question. The character of these associations, the area which is adopted for them, appears to me, as I think was stated by Lord Stanmore, to be one to which a great deal too much importance has been attached. Whether the county or the diocese is selected as the area, the governing body, which is to be representative of the managers of the schools in that area, will be composed almost in identically the same manner. ["Hear, hear!"] It is the managers, whether in the county or in the diocese, who will elect the governing body, and the character of the association must depend upon the character of those who are elected, and we are absolutely unable, in the Department, to see how the question will be affected by the adoption of an ecclesiastical or a civil area. Further, the most rev. Prelate seemed to be under the impression that the governing bodies of these associations would have the power of deciding, in some way, upon the character of the schools and of the religious instruction which is going to be given in future in them. He seemed to fear that if the association was not of an ecclesiastical character the religious character of many of these Voluntary Schools would be given up. These associations, or their governing bodies, so far as I know, will have absolutely nothing to do with the management of the schools which they represent. [*Cheers.*] They are simply formed for the purpose of advising the Department as to the distribution of a certain grant in proportion to the necessities of the schools. They do not assume, and they would not be permitted by the Department to assume, any power over the management of the schools which are included within them—["hear, hear!"]—and therefore it seems to me that, in the advice which the most rev. Prelate has given to school managers upon this subject, and in the observations he has made this afternoon, he has somewhat misapprehended the question, and has perhaps induced some of those who are guided by his advice to attach an unnecessary degree of importance to what, so far as I am able to ascertain, is, after all, a very minor question indeed.

THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY: The noble Duke began by saying he did not think that what had been brought before us to-night concerned either the Education Department or this House. I venture to differ very widely from him.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: Perhaps my noble Friend will allow me to explain. Of course, the principles upon which these associations are formed, that is a matter of great public importance; but the question of what has taken place in the county of Berkshire and the diocese of Oxford, or in the county of Lincoln, these preliminary stages in the controversy do not seem to me matters of importance to this House.

THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY: I am much obliged for the correction, but I confess I am not convinced. The noble Duke says, with great truth, that we are concerned with the principles upon which these associations are formed; but how can you judge of the way in which the principles are carried into effect but by knowing what has taken place in different parts of the country where these matters are discussed? That is the very reason why, it seems to me, a discussion such as the one which has now taken place is extremely germane to the whole matter. But if for no other reason, I should welcome the discussion on account of the statement that my noble Friend made at the conclusion of his speech, which, I am sure, will be received with great satisfaction throughout the country—namely, that these associations are not formed for the purpose of controlling and directing the kind of education which the schools are to afford. [*Cheers.*] That seems to me a perfectly sound principle, and I trust the Education Department will see that it is vigilantly and carefully and universally carried into effect. The danger is just in that direction. I have no doubt whatever as to the intentions of the Education Department, but, with the feelings which every one has in favour of his own views and of his own profession, I may say it would be unfair, I think, to impute any great blame to those who, like the right rev. Prelates, see in the Act an opportunity for pushing forward what they deem to be Church principles and Church interests. That seems to me to be perfectly natural on their part. Far from blaming them, I think it is only what they may fairly be expected to do but, whilst I say that, I say I look with the greatest suspicion—I was almost going to say hostility—on the action which they will take, believing as I do that, in the end, it will not only not advance the interests of education, but that it will be detrimental to the Church and to religious interests in this country—and detrimental for this reason, that it will introduce discord and rivalry and evil-feeling into a matter in which, I believe, they need not be introduced. That that is not the intention of the right rev. Prelates I most clearly admit; but you have, by this Act, introduced a subject of contention upon that which is one of the most vital principles and one of the strongest matters of feeling which can exercise, I might say, any one in this country. I sincerely hope that the Education Department will be able, as I see they are anxious, to confine, within proper limits, the work of these associations. If that can be done I think no harm will result. The proper object of the association is, no doubt, to assist the Education Department in distributing the support which Parliament has thought it right to give the Voluntary Schools, the end and object being to maintain the Voluntary Schools in a state of efficiency, upon which we are all agreed. As regards these particular schemes, not being able myself quite clearly to understand the machinery by which this Act is to be worked, I do not clearly see how the Education Department is to stand so entirely aloof and to view with perfect indifference the proceedings of these various bodies throughout the country in forming these associations. It seems to me that there must be some criterion which the Education Department must apply to see that these associations have been—if I may use the term—legally formed. It is not merely that an association asserts that it exists, but it ought to exist upon a basis recognised by the Department, and in accordance with the intentions of the Act. There may be machinery which I do not understand by which the Education Department propose so to inform themselves, but I do not see how that is to be done through these committees. If the Education Department communicates with each and every manager, and if the Education Department determines by the views of the managers what is to be done, then I do not see why it might not have been originally arranged that the managers should have determined the whole matter of majority and submit it to the Education Department. I draw the conclusion which my noble Friend behind me drew—that it is immensely to be regretted that the Government entirely refused to put forward any instructions to the different bodies throughout the country as to the manner in which these associations might be formed. I think it would have saved a great deal of heartburning and of trouble, and would have produced the most satisfactory result. I am not sure whether I understood my noble Friend quite rightly, but I think I understood from him that there still remains an opportunity this year for those who have not been able to join an association, to form that association and to put themselves into a position to be able to take advantage of the Act. He made that observation principally with reference to those denominational schools which are not connected with the Church of England. There are many schools that find themselves isolated, so to speak. In my own county it has been determined to have a diocesan association and not to admit any but Church schools. I know that very great embarrassment indeed is felt by the managers of Voluntary Schools throughout the country which are not Church Schools. They were quite willing to have joined the association. I hope they will have an opportunity of joining some association, by which they may receive the benefit of the Act, because certainly the intention of the Act was not to support Voluntary Schools connected with the Church only, though they will form the majority of the schools, but generally to support Voluntary Schools in whatever manner they might have been formed. That leads me to make another remark. It has been already said that there are many schools which are supported by a voluntary rate, but which, in point of fact, are indiscriminately supported by Nonconformists and Church people. The managers of the schools do not know exactly which way to turn. The predominant feeling in the parishes in which such schools exist is not to support the Church, is not to support Nonconformity, but to avoid a School Board, because they consider it more expensive and the machinery inconvenient. It will be seen by those interested in the Church that unless they treat these parishes with some tenderness and consideration the necessary result will be the formation of Board Schools or the formation of opposition Nonconformist schools. I know of one parish in which the majority of the people are Nonconformists. Hitherto there has been nominally a Church school, but the committee of management has been elected from the different denominations. Since a diocesan board has been formed it has been proposed to set up a Nonconformist school, which is likely to entirely destroy the Church school. These are subjects which give me no satisfaction whatever, because I regret to see any discord introduced into educational matters. I will conclude by expressing the hope that my noble Friend's anticipations may be fulfilled, and that it may be found eventually that these associations are formed with the general consent of the different parts of the country. I cannot conceive how it can be possible to work satisfactorily both a diocesan and a county association in the same area; it may seem a plausible arrangement, but I do not believe it is one that is likely to work harmoniously. Personally, I am very much afraid the Act will produce consequences which we may all considerably deplore.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: Let me say, in reference to my noble Friend's statement that in his county a diocesan association has been formed which does not propose to admit other than Church schools, that schools which have not an opportunity of joining an association will not suffer. They will have to be dealt with by the Department individually.

THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY: Very good.

VERMINOUS PERSONS BILL.

Second Reading (which stands appointed for this day) put off to Thursday next.

PATENT OFFICE EXTENSION BILL.

Read 2ª (according to Order), and committed to a Committee of the whole House To-morrow.

PUBLIC OFFICES (WHITEHALL) SITE BILL.

Read 2ª (according to Order), and committed to a Committee of the whole House To-morrow.

METROPOLITAN AND OTHER POLICE COURTS BILL.

Considered in Committee (according to Order); Bills reported without amendment; and re-committed to the Standing Committee.

POLICE (PROPERTY) BILL.

Considered in Committee (according to Order): Bills reported without amendment; and re-committed to the Standing Committee.

Earl of Kimberley.

FINANCE BILL.

Read 3ª (according to Order), and passed.

LUNACY BILL [H.L.].

Committee of the whole House (which stands appointed for this day) put off to Thursday next.

BERRIEW SCHOOL BILL.

Considered in Committee (according to Order): Bill reported without amendment: Standing Committee negatived: and Bill to be Read 3ª To-morrow.

VOLUNTEERS BILL.

Third Reading (which stands appointed for this day) put off till To-morrow.

MERCHANT SHIPPING (UNDERMANNING) BILL.

To be Read 3ª on Thursday next.

House Adjourned at Ten Minutes past Seven o'Clock, till To-morrow, a Quarter past Ten o'Clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, 12th July 1897.

ROSSLARE RAILWAY (APOLOGY).

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.) said that he desired to correct a statement that he had inadvertently made on Friday last to the effect that the Town Clerk of Birmingham was a member of a syndicate that wanted to purchase the Rosslare Railway. That official had written to him stating that there was no foundation whatever for the statement, and therefore he wished to withdraw it, and to express his regret for having made it. ["Hear, hear!"]

MERSEY CHANNELS BILL.

Lords' Amendments to to be considered forthwith; considered, and agreed to.

QUESTIONS.

ASHBOURNE BOARD OF GUARDIANS.

Sir WILFRID LAWSON: (Cumberland, Cockermouth): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he is aware that the Ashbourne Board of Guardians have for some time held their meetings in licensed premises, contrary to law; whether any steps have been taken in the matter by the Local Government Board; and whether it is intended that any steps should be taken to put a stop to this illegality?

The PRESIDENT of the LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. H. Chaplin, Lincolnshire, Sleaford): The question of the present place of meeting of the Ashbourne Board of Guardians has been the subject of correspondence between the Local Government Board and the Guardians, and the Board have repeatedly urged that arrangements should be made for the meetings to be made elsewhere. It is alleged by the Guardians that the law is not contravened. They stated in May 1896 that an arrangement was made with the owner of the board room whereby the board room and offices were, prior to the last licensing session, separately let to the Guardians who were thenceforth to have the exclusive use of them, and that they had not been included in the premises in respect of which the licence was granted to the proprietress of the "Green Man" Hotel. The district auditor has made a disallowance of certain rents which have been paid in respect of the premises referred, and the question as to the legality of the disallowance has been raised by an appeal which is under the consideration of the Board.

EVICTIONS (IRELAND).

Mr. T. M. HEALY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary for Ireland can he state the total number of applications for reinstatement by evicted tenants under the Land Act 1896; how many have been acceded to by the landlords; and, can the Government do anything before the powers of the Act expire to promote settlements?

The CHIEF SECRETARY for IRELAND (Mr. Gerald Balfour, Leeds, Central): The number of applications received by the Land Commissioners under the 47th Section of the Act of 1896 is 507, in 16 of which the applications have been acceded to by the landlords. At the same time, I may state that settlements have been effected with evicted tenants in a considerable number of cases quite independently of the provisions of the Act of last year. Thus, in the quarter ended March 31 last, the number of farms retaken by the former tenants was 158, and for the 12 months ended December 31 1896, the number was 627. In 1895 the number was 605, and there were 590 settlements in 1894. These numbers do not include cases of relettings to relatives or friends of evicted tenants with the consent of, or by arrangement with, the latter. It is not the intention of the Government to undertake further legislation for the purpose of promoting settlements with evicted tenants.

Mr. T. M. HEALY asked whether the right hon. Gentleman could do anything in the matter pending legislation.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: I will do anything that lies in my power in the matter. ["Hear, hear!"]

POSTAGE RATES.

Mr. HENNIKER HEATON (Canterbury): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, (1) whether, at the Postal Union Congress held a Washington, Great Britain proposed or announced her intention to reduce the postage to all parts of the world (Foreign and Colonial) from 2½d. to 2d. per letter; (2) whether he is aware that about 53,000,000 letters are dispatched annually to Europe, Asia, Africa, America, and Australasia, and of this number of letters only 10,000,000 or 12,000,000 go to our Colonies and India; (3) whether in consequence of the refusal of the Foreign Governments to permit England to reduce her postage rates from 2½d. to 2d., he has called the Chancellor of the Exchequer's attention to the fact that a saving of 53,000,000 halfpennies will be effected, and that the cost of establishing Imperial penny postage will only amount to 30,000,000 halfpennies; and (4) whether he will propose to the Chancellor of the Exchequer that the saving through the rejection of Great Britain's proposal shall be devoted to establishing penny postage to all parts of the Empire, and, whether he will consent to establish ocean penny postage to our Colonies if he receives the written consent of the Prime Ministers and Governments concerned?

THE SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. R. W. HANBURY, Preston): It is the fact that, in accordance with the instructions which they received, the British Delegates at the recent Postal Congress announced the intention of her Majesty's Government to fix the English equivalent of 25 centimes at 2d. instead of 2½d. The Postmaster General is aware that about 53,000,000 letters (including post-cards) are dispatched annually abroad, and that about 12,000,000 of this number go to our Colonies and India. The last two paragraphs of the Question relate to matters of policy, of a kind which would require the attention of the Government, and could not in any case be conveniently answered within the limits of a reply to a question. This must also be my answer to the hon. Member's other Question.

MR. HENNIKER HEATON: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he is aware that the British Officers at present quartered at Canea, Island of Crete, send and receive a number of private letters from Malta; that these letters travel invariably by one of Her Majesty's ships, free of cost, to the Malta Post Office, yet the postal officials at the latter place rule that all these letters must be stamped with a 2½d. stamp, though the Malta inland rate is alleged to be only a halfpenny?

MR. HANBURY: The Postmaster General has no information as to the postage charged on any private letters from Malta for British Officers quartered at Canea which may be conveyed by Her Majesty's ships. But as 2½d., or the equivalent of 25 centimes, where no agreement exists to the contrary, is the universal postage of the world from and to countries included in the Postal Union, he thinks it most probable that the authorities at Malta require the letters to bear this postage. The post office of the island is not administered by the Imperial Post Office.

CHESTER MILITARY DISTRICT.

SIR BARRINGTON SIMEON (Southampton): On behalf of the hon. Member for North Camberwell (Major DALBIAC), I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether it is usual in the case of promotion or appointment of an officer to the command of a battalion to take into consideration the opinion and reports of his commanding officer concerning his fitness and ability; and, if so, upon what grounds did the General Officer commanding at Chester recommend for command the officer now commanding the 3rd Volunteer Battalion Royal Welsh Fusiliers, in direct disregard of the reports concerning him by his own commanding officer, and why did he repeatedly refuse to see the commanding officer of the battalion on the subject when an interview was requested; and whether he is aware that the commanding officer had preferred serious charges against him (the officer now commanding the 3rd Volunteer Battalion Royal Welsh Fusiliers) and demanded a Court of inquiry to investigate the matter, which application was entirely ignored by the General Officer commanding at Chester?

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): The General Officer Commanding the District did duly consider the report of the officer commanding the corps and also that of the Colonel commanding the regimental district in forwarding it. Considerable friction appears to have existed between the officer commanding and the officer reported on, and, after considering the reports, the General Officer Commanding, in the exercise of his discretion, recommended the appointment of the present Commanding Officer of the 3rd Battalion, and the Secretary of State is not prepared to interfere with the discretion so exercised. The General Officer Commanding denies that he has refused to give an interview to the officer who objected to the appointment. The granting or not of a Court of Inquiry was entirely a matter for the consideration of the General Officer Commanding, and not for that of the officer applying for it.

NATIONAL TELEPHONE COMPANY.

Mr. FORTESCUE FLANNERY (Yorkshire, Shipley): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether his attention has been called to the practical withdrawal by the National Telephone Company of call room facilities at the Law Courts, and to the fact that subscribers are now excluded, except by special payment, from facilities they have hitherto enjoyed; whether, having regard to the extreme importance to the administration of justice of communication to and from the Law Courts, representations will be made by the Post Office to the National Telephone Company upon the matter; and, whether the National Telephone Company has withdrawn several of its call rooms in the Metropolis, although subscribers have entered into contracts with the Company in good faith that the call room facilities throughout London would not be curtailed?

Mr. HANBURY: The attention of the Postmaster General has not been specially called to the withdrawal by the National Telephone Company of facilities at the Law Courts, but he has received representations in regard to the withdrawal by the Company of some of its call rooms in the Metropolis. He is in communication with the Company on the subject, and he will make inquiry with regard to the case of the Law Courts.

HORSE AND FIELD ARTILLERY.

***Sir CHARLES DILKE** (Gloucester, Forest of Dean): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War what has been the recent increase in horses and in men in the Horse and Field Artillery of the British Army, taken together; and what was the effective strength in men of the Horse Artillery and Field Artillery, together, in 1897 as compared with 1895?

Mr. BRODRICK: The recent increase of establishment of the Horse and Field Artillery taken together has been 191 men, 66 horses, and six guns. The establishment of men for the Horse and Field Artillery on the British establishment is 8,912 in 1897, against 8,721 in 1895. The effective strength is a varying quantity; by the latest returns it was 138 under establishment.

PLAGUE BACILLUS (INDIA).

Mr. T. M. HEALY: On behalf of the hon. Member for Londonderry (Mr. Vesey Knox), I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether his attention has been called to the Bacteriological Report and the Dispatch of 10th March from the Government of India, showing that mice inoculated with an infusion from grain infected by the plague bacillus died in some cases though the grain had been for 13 days free from fresh infection, and that the bacilli might at a later date re-acquire toxic properties under favourable conditions: and whether he can state what steps have been taken to prevent the introduction of the plague into the United Kingdom?

Mr. CHAPLIN: My attention has been drawn to the Report and Dispatch referred to. From the Report it would appear that an experiment in which mice were deliberately injected beneath the skin with preparations of nine different species of grain, which had been purposely infected with microbes of bubonic plague, one single mouse injected with one of these nine preparations died after 24 hours, whilst all the others survived. As regards the mouse that died it is stated that it "showed no appearances microscopically or otherwise, of having succumbed to bubonic infection," and I am advised that no scientific conclusion should be drawn from such a result. I do not gather that the Report shows "that the bacilli might at a later date re-acquire toxic properties under favourable conditions." What the Report says, is that the Government of India are advised that the experiments are not conclusive, since such re-acquirement of toxic properties may be possible. The steps which have been taken to prevent the introduction of plague into England and Wales are embodied in an Order relating to Plague, Cholera and Yellow Fever, which was issued by the Local Government Board in November 1896. These regulations were brought under the direct notice of every Urban, Rural and Port Sanitary authority in England and Wales. I have also instructed Medical Inspectors of the Department to pay special visits to a number of ports which are in somewhat frequent communication with ports of India.

MATABELELAND RISING.

MR. T. LOUGH (Islington, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether it is the intention of the Government to grant a medal to the soldiers who have suppressed the rising in Matabeleland; how many Hussars or other regular troops now remain in or near Buluwayo; and when is it the intention of the Government to order these soldiers back to Natal?

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.): An Army order was issued on the 1st inst. approving the grant of a medal to the forces engaged in the operations of 1896. Only 200 Hussars remain in Rhodesia. In May it was decided to move them to Mashonaland to act in support of the police. The troops will be withdrawn as soon as the circumstances permit.

TELEGRAPH CHARGES.

SIR JOHN LENG (Dundee): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, (1) whether when a house is situated a few yards beyond the three-miles' limit, within which all charges for the delivery of telegrams are abolished, the recipient of a telegram is properly charged 3d. per mile for four miles; (2) whether it was the intention of the Government in abolishing the charges within the three miles to count the surcharge over them into the fourth mile; and (3) whether consideration will be given to the propriety of making the surcharge for delivery begin from the three-mile limit?

MR. HANBURY: The answer to the first two questions of the hon. Member is in the affirmative. In charging from the office door, in the case of telegrams delivered at a distance exceeding three miles, the Department is following the practice which previously obtained in the case of telegrams delivered by man and horse. There has already been a liberal extension of the area of

Mr. Chaplin.

free delivery, and before any further concession can be made in the direction indicated by the hon. Member it will be necessary to see what is the effect upon the revenue of the changes already made.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis), asked why they had adopted the practice that had previously obtained in the case of telegrams delivered by man and horse.

MR. HANBURY: Well, I believe that the idea is that most of the telegrams that have to be delivered beyond the three-mile limit will have to be sent by man and horse.

BALLYSHANNON DISPENSARY COMMITTEE.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the Dispensary Committee of Ballyshannon consists of eleven elected members, of whom eight are Catholics and three are Protestants, and of twenty *ex-officio* members, of whom no fewer than fourteen are Protestants and six Catholics, being the Poor Law Guardians *ex-officio* and elected who reside in the district; and whether, having regard to the fact that there is a Protestant majority of eight in the Dispensary Committee of a district where the Catholics number nine-tenths of the population, and have an overwhelmingly larger valuation on which rates are levied than the Protestants, he will consider the propriety of advising the Local Government Board, in exercise of the powers vested in them, to allow the number of the members of the Dispensary Committee to be increased, and to confer on the guardians of the union the power of co-opting additional members on the Ballyshannon Dispensary Committee?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: It is the fact that the Committee of Management of the Ballyshannon Dispensary Committee consists of 31 members, of whom 11 are elected Guardians. I have no information as to their religious opinions, nor does the question of religion enter into consideration in the constitution of these Committees. The Local Government Board, at the request of the Guardians, recently increased the number of members of the Ballyshannon Committee to 31, in order that all the Guardians qualified to be members might be included, and as there are sufficient Guardians qualified to act on the Committee no ratepayers have been elected. It is not proposed to take any further action in this matter, as no representation has been made to the Local Government Board that the sick poor require additional facilities for obtaining medical relief tickets.

WRECK (INDIAN TROOPSHIP "WARREN HASTINGS").

MR. PERCY THORNTON (Clapham): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether it is proposed to give official recognition on the part of the Government of India to the brave conduct of the officers and engineers of the Indian marine who were successful in saving the lives as well as salving a large amount of the property of the officers and troops in the wreck of the steamer *Warren Hastings*?

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Lord G. HAMILTON, Middlesex, Ealing): The Government of India have already recognised in their marine orders the excellent conduct of the officers and men of the Royal Indian Marine steamer *Warren Hastings*. The question of specially recognising the exceptional services of individual officers and men is also under their consideration.

MR. THORNTON asked whether a Dispatch had been received from the Government of India?

LORD GEORGE HAMILTON said that was the case. He forgot the exact form in which the communication came.

CIVIL BILL COURTS (IRELAND).

MR. T. M. HEALY: On behalf of the hon. Member for Londonderry, I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, (1) whether the Irish Government have received from the Derry Chamber of Commerce a memorial in favour of a draft Bill to amend the law relating to Civil Bill Courts in Ireland by Mr. A. M. Munn, the Clerk of the Crown for County Derry; and (2) whether he will be able to introduce a Bill containing some or all of the amendments in the law suggested by Mr. Munn?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: No communication has been received of the nature indicated in the first paragraph of the Question.

OUTRAGES AT POONA.

SIR ELLIS ASHMEAD-BARTLETT (Sheffield, Ecclesall): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether the Governor of Bombay has confirmed the nomination of Ganguhdar Tilak, of Poona, editor of the Mahratta and Kesari journals of Poona, to the Legislative Council; and, whether he is aware that Ganguhdar Tilak, besides publishing attacks upon the British Authorities in his papers has himself made speeches inciting to rebellion; if so, whether the Government of India propose to take any action in this matter?

MR. W. T. HOWELL (Denbigh Boroughs): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he is aware that Ganguhdar Tilak, whose election to the Legislative Council of Bombay is reported to be confirmed by Lord Sandhurst, was some years ago sentenced to a double term of imprisonment for being concerned in a conspiracy to defame a native statesman, Ras Bahdur W. Burvè, minister of an important native state; and, whether the acceptance of this election to the Legislative Council by Lord Sandhurst was concurred in by his two colleagues, who, together with Lord Sandhurst constitute the Government of Bombay?

LORD GEORGE HAMILTON: It is true that the nomination of Ganguhdar Tilak to the Legislative Council has been confirmed by the Governor of Bombay, in whom alone the right of confirming or rejecting is vested under the rules. Ganguhdar Tilak was nominated in 1895 to the same position, and he was again nominated in 1897. It is also true that Ganguhdar Tilak was some years ago sentenced to imprisonment, that he is the editor of two newspapers, and that he has recently made the speech alluded to; but the question whether the articles which have appeared in those newspapers are seditious, and whether that speech contained an incitement to rebellion is a matter of law, as to which the Government of Bombay has not at present arrived at any final opinion.

SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT: Does the noble Lord propose to take any action in regard to this nomination?

LORD GEORGE HAMILTON: I certainly think it would be premature to express an opinion at present.

MR. MACNEILL asked by whom this gentleman was nominated.

LORD GEORGE HAMILTON said he believed he was nominated by the Central Municipal Authority of Bombay.

TATE GALLERY OF BRITISH ART.

DR. FARQUHARSON (Aberdeenshire, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury what arrangements have been made with reference to the transference of a certain portion of the National collection of pictures to the Tate Gallery of British Art?

MR. HANBURY: Ninety-seven pictures of the Modern British School have been transferred from the National Gallery to the Tate Gallery, where they are now hung. The general principle of selection adopted by the trustees and director has been to transfer to the Tate Gallery all works by British painters born after 1790. But certain exceptions have been made to this rule. For instance, almost all the pictures by Sir Edwin Landseer have been retained in the National Gallery, and on the other hand a few small paintings by Constable (born 1776) and a few examples of Wilkie (born 1785) have been removed to the Tate Gallery. All pictures of the earlier British School, including the works of Hogarth, Wilson, Reynolds, Gainsborough, Morland, Copley, Romney, Stothard, Opie, Crome, Lawrence, Turner, and others, will remain in the National Gallery, and have been hung in the western wing of the building. I may add that the Tate Gallery will also contain not only Mr. Tate's own gift of modern British pictures, but also the modern British pictures and sculptures bought by the Chantrey trustees out of their trust fund, and at present housed at South Kensington.

DR. FARQUHARSON asked when the transfer would be made.

MR. HANBURY: I think very shortly.

Lord George Hamilton.

ROYAL MARINES.

SIR JOHN COLOMB (Great Yarmouth): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty (1) will he explain why the Royal Marine Artillery with their guns had no representation in the Naval portion of the Procession on the 22nd ultimo, and why no Marine brigade took part in the Review at Aldershot on the 1st instant, in accordance with the precedent of 1887; (2) who is responsible for the result that the Royal Marine Forces were the only branch of the regular service unrepresented in the Procession in London or at the Review at Aldershot; and, (3) whether he is aware that this exclusion is keenly felt by all ranks of a service which has fought, both by sea and land, with the Navy and with the Army, in all parts of the world for more than two centuries?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. GOSCHEN, St. George's, Hanover Square): As regards the first question of the hon. and gallant Member, I have repeatedly stated the case of the Jubilee procession in London. It was a mounted procession in which no Infantry of any kind was represented, and the only exception made was in favour of the small contingent of bluejackets with their field guns. The Royal Marine Artillery do not, I am informed, parade with field guns. It is not true that the Royal Marine forces were the only branch of the Regular service unrepresented in the procession. The whole of the Infantry of the Line were unrepresented in the sense of the hon. and gallant Member's question. The Garrison Artillery, like the Royal Marine Artillery, were not in the procession, but were represented by a stationary detachment of troops. On the route of the procession the Marines were strongly represented, there being a battalion of Royal Marine Artillery and Royal Marine Light Infantry posted at prominent positions. The Marine forces mounted one of the few guards of honour which were mounted on that day. As regards Aldershot, the difference between this year and 1887 was that in the present year ships were mobilised in such numbers as has never been the case before; and, of course, the flower of the force of Royal Marines was employed in the ships. It was held that no thoroughly representative brigade could have been sent to the review, and rather than that the Marines should be represented there in any manner which would not do the fullest justice to their splendid reputation—["hear, hear"]—it was better that they should not be present at all. Till the hon. and gallant Member put his question on the notice paper, I had not heard the slightest whisper of any feeling such as that suggested in his last paragraph. My information is to the contrary, and I cannot believe that the Marines would consider for one moment that there could be neglect or slight where none most assuredly was intended nor could be intended. ["Hear, hear!"]

CLOUGHOULA NATIONAL SCHOOL (IRELAND).

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland (1) whether he is aware that pupils were recently expelled from Cloughoula male National School (Mill Street district) by order of the managers, on the grounds of insufficient accommodation; (2) what number of pupils is the school certified to accommodate, what is the average attendance, and what number were in attendance when the pupils were expelled; and (3) whether the Commissioners of Education have taken any steps to have the school enlarged; if so, with what result?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: The facts are substantially as stated in the first paragraph. The manager of the school in question is manager also of the Mill Street National School in the same locality, and he explains that the children concerned belonged to the neighbourhood of the latter school which has ample accommodation for them. The Cloughoula school is certified to accommodate 56 pupils; the average daily attendance for the quarter ended 30th June was 71; and the average attendance at the time of the expulsion of pupils was 72. The Commissioners made an offer to the manager of a grant-in-aid of the cost of enlargement of the school, and the manager has expressed his intention to enlarge the premises at a future date when practicable.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether the increment due after 1st April 1897, will be paid according to the new scale, 1s. 6d. per week, to Irish postmen; and, if so, from what date?

MR. HANBURY: The new scales took effect from the 1st of April last. On that date the postmen's pay was increased by the proportion of any increment which they had earned at the old rate of 1s. a year, and they are now qualifying for an increment at the new rate of 1s. 6d. a year which they will receive on the 1st April next.

STATE OF JHALLAWAR.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS (Denbighshire, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether the Government have come to a final decision as to the sub-division and settlement of the State of Jhallawar; if so, whether he will state what the arrangement is; and whether he will lay upon the Table of the House the Papers relating to the present condition of affairs in the State?

LORD GEORGE HAMILTON: The general outline of the final decision regarding Jhallawar is as follows:—The claim of the Kotah State under the treaties and engagements of 1838 to recover possession of its ancient territories then assigned to Jhallawar is held to have been established. The other portions of Jhallawar, consisting of Chan Mahla and the Shahabab Pergunnah, will be regranted by the British Government to a selected member of the Kotah branch of Zalim Singh I's family. An exchange, however, of Jhalrapatan for Shahabad will be effected under suitable conditions in order to retain the town of that name as the capital of the new State of Jhallawar. The decision was announced in Durbar on June 5, and when I receive a report of the proceedings of the Government of India I shall be happy to lay further papers relating to Jhallawar on the Table of the House.

ELECTION LAW.

SIR BARRINGTON SIMEON (Southampton): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether, under the circumstances, he will consider whether the time has now arrived when the disqualifications which have been imposed upon persons for offences committed against the Law of Elections at the late general election may be remitted?

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY, Lancashire, Blackpool): This question has already been considered by me, but I have not felt justified in advising any interference in favour of persons suffering disabilities in connection with offences against the Election Law.

ERASMUS SMITH ENDOWMENTS.

MR. T. M. HEALY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he is now in a position to give the information as to the finance of the Erasmus Smith Endowments, promised on 28th January 1897?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: By the courtesy of the governors of these schools I was informed in January last that their gross income for the year ended 1st May 1896, was £7,618 17s. 10d. I am unable to supply the further information desired by the hon. and learned Gentleman's Question of the 28th January, nor have I any means of obtaining it.

PRISON SYSTEM (SCOTLAND).

MR. THOMAS HEDDERWICK (Wick Burghs): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether, since his replies in May last to questions relating to the prison system in Scotland, fresh instructions to prison officials, regarding the association of criminals and the supervision of associated prisoners by warders, have been issued by the authorities in Scotland; and, if so, whether he will lay a copy of such instructions upon the Table of the House?

*THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire): I am informed by the Prison Commissioners that the revisal of the instructions to prison officers was begun by them in January, and completed by the end of April last; and that the new instructions, as finally revised and approved, have now been printed and circulated. These instructions are issued in terms of No. 8 of the Rules for Prisons in Scotland, which have been laid before Parliament; and, as such instructions are voluminous and liable to be changed from time to time, it has never been the custom, and I do not now propose to lay them on the Table of the House. If, however, the hon. Member will call at the Scottish Office, I am sure the Secretary for Scotland will be happy to show him a copy of the instructions.

LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANIES ACT 1870.

MR. E. BOULNOIS (Marylebone, E.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether the Board is obtaining Returns under the third, fourth, fifth, and sixth schedules of the Life Assurance Companies Act 1870, from those members of Lloyds and others who have issued policies of assurances upon human life within the United Kingdom; and whether such persons who have begun such business since the passing of the Act are required to make the deposit of £20,000 specified in the third section thereof?

MR. HANBURY (for Mr. RITCHIE): The Returns referred to by the hon. Member are obtained from all companies which, to the knowledge of the Board of Trade, issue or are liable under policies of assurance upon human life within the United Kingdom, and all companies which, to their knowledge, have begun such business since the Life Assurance Companies Act 1870 have been required to make the deposit of £20,000. The term "company" under the Act means "any person or persons," but the Board of Trade have no information that any member of Lloyds or other individual has issued or incurred any liability under such policies except as a member of a life assurance office.

GIBRALTAR (SANITARY WORKS).

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies, when the Papers relating to the sanitary works at Gibraltar will be laid upon the Table?

MR. CHAMBERLAIN: The Consulting Engineer has not yet furnished me with his reply to the allegations made by the Sanitary Commissioners. The Papers will be laid as soon as they have been received and considered.

HORSHAM BURIAL DISTRICT JOINT COMMITTEE.

MR. HEYWOOD JOHNSTONE (Sussex, Horsham): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government

Board, if he intends during the present Session of Parliament to bring in a Bill to deal with the legal difficulties with regard to the exercise of borrowing powers by joint burial committees appointed under Section 53 of The Local Government Act, 1894, which in August of last year the Board stated, in answer to an application from the Horsham Burial District Joint Committee, required legislation to meet them ?

MR. CHAPLIN : I have had a short Bill prepared on the subject, and I will consult with my right hon. Friend, the Leader of the House, as to the possibility of introducing and passing it during the present session.

IRISH MAIL SERVICE.

CAPTAIN DONELAN (Cork, E.) : On behalf of the hon. Member for Cork Co., W. (MR. JAMES GILHOOLY), I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether his attention has been directed to the defective postal arrangements between Schull and Crookhaven ; and, if so, whether he intends to improve them ?

MR. HANBURY : Since the Question put by the hon. Member on this subject on the 11th March last, full inquiry has been made as to the possibility of improving the mail service to Schull and Crookhaven, but it is found that the conveyance of the mails from Skibbereen by railway instead of by road, as desired, would involve a very large increase of expense which the advantage to be gained is altogether insufficient to warrant ; an answer to the above effect was sent to the hon. Member on the 31st March.

NATIONAL SCHOOLS (IRELAND).

MR. T. M. HEALY : On behalf of the hon. Member for Londonderry, I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will call the attention of the National Board to the desirability of allowing children in the Irish-speaking districts, who are asked by the Inspectors to explain the subject matter of the lessons read, to give their explanations in Irish, in which they can more readily express their ideas ?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR : I will draw the attention of the Commissioners of National Education to the suggestion of the hon. and learned Member, but I need hardly say that the matter is one entirely for them to decide and not for me.

QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE.

MR. JOHN AIRD (Paddington, N.) : I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War if additional pay has been given to the members of the military bands who gave so much pleasure by their services on Jubilee Day ?

MR. BRODRICK : It is not intended to make any difference between the bandsmen and the other soldiers in the award of a special allowance for service on Jubilee Day.

SOUTHWARK AND VAUXHALL WATER COMPANY.

*MR. R. K. CAUSTON (Southwark, W.) : I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that the Southwark and Vauxhall Water Company is only giving an intermittent supply of water to many of the large blocks of workmen's dwellings in certain parts of West Southwark, and is creating a grave danger to public health ; and whether he proposes to take any, and if so what, measures to compel the company at once to comply with the law, and give a constant supply ?

MR. CHAPLIN : The Local Government Board have received no complaints of the water supply being intermittent in the cases referred to, and I have therefore no compulsory powers of interference even if the facts were as stated. But when notice was given of the Question I instructed General Scott to make inquiries into the matter. The company do not admit the allegations, and I am informed to-day by the company that the buildings in West Southwark continue to be well supplied with water and no complaint exists.

MR. CAUSTON : I should like to state that my Question was based on official statements made by the Clerk to the Vestry of St. George the Martyr.

LAMBETH WATERWORKS COMPANY.

Mr. C. E. TRITTON (Lambeth, Norwood): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether, in view of the great inconvenience and danger to which the inhabitants of Norwood have been lately exposed by the failure in the water supply, he will represent very strongly to the Lambeth Waterworks Company the necessity of immediate notice being given to consumers in future should it be found necessary for any reason to restrict or discontinue the ordinary supply?

Mr. CHAPLIN: I have communicated with the Lambeth Water Company and impressed upon them the great importance of giving early notice, so far as circumstances will permit, of any probable deficiency in the water supply of their district. I think I should add that the deficiency in the water supply was very sudden, that it was occasioned by causes which could not have been foreseen, and was at an end after five or six days. Under such circumstances it would have been very difficult to give notice to the many thousands of water consumers in the district in time to be of practical service.

RECOVERY OF DEBTS (MARRIED WOMEN).

Lord HUGH CECIL (Greenwich): I beg to ask the Attorney General whether his attention has been called to the decision of the Queen's Bench in the case of Farmery *v.* Rosse, given about two months ago; and whether the effect of that decision is substantially to exempt a married woman from the ordinary process of law for the recovery of debts; and, if so, whether the Government will consider the propriety of bringing in a Bill to amend the law?

The ATTORNEY GENERAL (Sir Richard Webster, Isle of Wight): My attention has not been called to the case, and I can find no report of it. Perhaps my noble Friend will communicate with me.

WELSH LAND COMMISSION.

Mr. LLOYD MORGAN (Carmarthen, W.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether the Government have taken, or are about to take, steps towards the construction of a scheme for granting advances out of the public Exchequer at a low rate of interest to embarrassed Irish landlords, to enable them to get rid of existing encumbrances on their property; and whether he will also consider the question of introducing a similar scheme to render assistance to the small occupying freeholders in Wales, whose condition is referred to in both the majority and minority Reports of the Royal Commission on Land in Wales, and in reference to which the Commissioners are unanimous in recommending the Government to render them assistance by the advance of money?

The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.) was understood to say that no such policy had been undertaken in the case of Ireland, and that it would be time to make a declaration of the policy of the Government in regard to Wales when the Government made any declaration in regard to Ireland.

ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL.

Sir ELLIOTT LEES (Birkenhead): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury if he has any information whether the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's Cathedral propose to remove a monument erected by King George III. at the request of Parliament to the memory of a distinguished naval officer, Captain Burgess, of the *Ardent*, who fell in the service of his country at the battle of Camperdown, in order to erect in its place a memorial subscribed for by private individuals to the memory of the late President of the Royal Academy; whether it is within the competence of any ecclesiastical authorities to interfere with public monuments erected by the Sovereign and Parliament in honour of those who have died for their country; and whether there is any opportunity of discussing the subject on any Vote in Committee of Supply?

The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY: In answer to my hon. Friend, I have to say that I am informed there is no legal objection to the course which was proposed to be taken with regard to Captain Burgess's monument, but the Dean and Chapter, after reviewing all the circumstances of the case, have decided not to remove it. ["Hear,

hear?"] I pronounce no opinion on the matter myself, but I think it ought to be stated, in justice to the Dean and Chapter, that they only intended to move the monument down to the crypt of the Cathedral, where are the monuments of Lord Nelson and Lord Napier of Magdala, heroes near whom I think any warrior might be proud to lay his bones.

SIR ELLIOTT LEES: The objection was not to the removal of the monument to the crypt, but to its removal in order to make way for another monument.

BRITISH NAVY.
(GIFT OF IRONCLAD BY CAPE COLONY.)

SIR J. COLOMB: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty a question of which I have given him private notice—(1) whether he can make any statement as to the spontaneous offer of the Cape Colony to make a contribution to the Royal Navy by the gift of a first-class ironclad unfettered by any conditions; and (2) whether, in view of the fact that no such offer has ever before been made by any self-governing colony, he will consider the propriety of affording the House at the proper time a suitable opportunity of formally thanking the Cape Colony. [*Cheers.*]

THE FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY: My statement can be very simple. The House may remember that on June 2nd, before the departure of Sir Gordon Sprigg from the Cape, the Cape Assembly passed a resolution by which the Prime Minister was authorised to take provisional steps to arrange some basis of contribution by the colony towards the Imperial Navy. In pursuance of that resolution, Sir Gordon Sprigg called on me on Saturday and made the offer of a contribution on the part of the Cape Colony of the cost of a first-class battleship. [*Cheers.*] No conditions, except the necessary ratification by the Cape Assembly, were attached to the proposed most public spirited and generous contribution to Imperial defence. In reply to the second part of my hon. and gallant Friend's Question, I will certainly at the proper time consult with my colleagues as to the propriety of affording Parliament a suitable opportunity of formally thanking the Government of Cape Colony. [*Cheers.*]

WORKMEN (COMPENSATION BILL).

MR. EDWARD MORTON (Devonport) asked the Home Secretary whether he was aware that on the 1st June last an Amendment was moved in Committee on the Workmen's Compensation Bill, which would have had the effect of admitting to the benefits of that Bill persons serving in the army and navy, except when they were on active service; whether he was aware that in speaking on this Amendment the Secretary for the Colonies on behalf of the Government stated that the Government were willing to consider the matter?

***MR. SPEAKER**: Order, order! The hon. Member is out of order in thus referring to the Debates.

MR. MORTON: On the point of order may I point out that we have reached a point on the report stage of that Bill, when an Amendment dealing with this matter would have to be moved if it be moved at all, and can only be moved by the Government, and on the occasion to which I referred, an undertaking was given that the Government might be able to deal with the matter on the report stage.

***MR. SPEAKER**: The hon. Member is under a mistake in saying that such an Amendment can only be moved by the Government. I understand he is referring to an Amendment which would be out of order because it would increase taxation. That would be out of order on the report stage from whatever portion of the House it was moved.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT (Monmouthshire, W.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he will tell the House what will be the business after the conclusion of the Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill. I would mention that the First Reading of the Naval Works Bill was taken without discussion, and I hope therefore that the Second Reading will be brought on as a First Order.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: My hope is that the Bill which we are now engaged upon will be concluded to-night, and I think there is a general desire that it should be, It is a Measure which everybody will admit ought to be got through without undue delay to another place, if for no other reason, for our own convenience. [*Laughter.*] If my hopes are fulfilled in that respect to-night I shall propose to devote to-morrow, first, to the Committee stage of the Foreign Prison-made Goods Bill, secondly, to the Committee of my right hon. Friend's Bill for dealing with London water; and thirdly to what remains to be dealt with of the report stage of the Congested Districts (Scotland) Bill. If that programme succeeds, I should meet the right hon. Gentlemen's views by taking the Naval Works Bill first on Wednesday.

MR. JAMES BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.): asked when it was proposed to take the report stage of the Public Health (Scotland) Bill.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY said he could not give any pledge on that subject at present.

VISCOUNT CRANBORNE (Rochester) asked when the Scotch Education Bill would be taken.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: As at present advised I see no prospect of taking it this week, at all events.

MR. PARKER SMITH (Lanark, Partick) asked whether the Scotch Education Bill or the Public Health (Scotland) Bill would be taken first.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY said that he could not pledge himself on the point, but as at present advised his view was that the Scotch Education Bill stood before the Public Health (Scotland) Bill.

COTTON CLOTH FACTORIES BILL.

*__THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT__ (Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY, Lancashire, Blackpool), in asking leave to introduce a Bill dealing with Cotton Cloth Factories said it was only a one-clause Bill, and arose out of a request made last Session by the employers and employed alike, that there should be a Committee to consider the operation of the Cotton Cloth Factories Act of 1889, and how it could be improved. As a result of the enquiry made by that Committee certain conclusions had been arrived at which, he believed, were acceptable both to employers and employed, and he had been urged from both quarters to introduce this short Bill this Session. He believed that no controversy would be aroused by the Measure and trusted that it would not take up much of the time of the House.

Bill to give power to make regulations with the respect to Cotton Cloth Factories, ordered to be brought in by Sir Matthew White Ridley and Mr. Jesse Collings; presented accordingly, and Read the First time; to be Read a Second time upon Thursday, and to be printed—[Bill 310.]

CHURCH PATRONAGE TRANSFERS BILL [H.L.].

Read the First time; to be Read a Second time upon Wednesday, and to be printed.—[Bill 309.]

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

WORKMEN (COMPENSATION FOR ACCIDENTS) BILL.

As amended, further considered.

Clause 8,—

COMMENCEMENT OF ACT AND SHORT TITLE.

(1.) This Act shall come into operation on the thirty-first day of March, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight.

(2.) This Act may be cited as the Workmen's Compensation Act 1897.

MR. JOHN WILSON (Falkirk Burghs) moved to leave out the words "thirty-first day of March," and to insert the words "first day of July." He said he had no desire to unnecessarily impede the operation of the Bill or to prevent workmen getting its benefits as soon as possible. He had always been in favour of universal compensation for all accidents, but seeing that the Government in the Bill had made the employer responsible not only for accidents over which he had control, but for all accidents over which he had no control, he thought the time allowed for the Bill to come into operation was too short, and his Amendment asked for the reasonable extension of three months more. The first reason in support of the Amendment was that the men's societies would be abolished and the funds would have to be divided, and that would take some time. He did not believe that any new associations would be formed; in fact, the workmen themselves did not believe it, but if they were to be formed, time should be given for the purpose. Secondly, the clauses of this Bill were so far-reaching that the employer would find it difficult to insure against accidents. No insurance society would take a risk for more than £5,000, which was a ridiculous sum in the case of this Bill, and therefore it was absolutely necessary that the employers should have time to form associations to come to the rescue. He believed that if time was not given for the purpose of forming associations many employers would not insure at all, but would run the risk of an accident, and in that way the workmen might be defrauded of their compensation. Another reason was that coal owners, in order to keep their collieries going, required to enter into contracts for at least a year. On those grounds he thought it was fair and reasonable that the time at which the Bill would come into operation should be extended from the 1st of March to the 1st of July.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY, Lancashire, Blackpool) said the Government recognised the desirability of giving all parties concerned ample time for the consideration of their position before the Act came into operation. What his hon. Friend had said about that was perfectly true, but he would remind his hon. Friend that when it was proposed in Committee that the operation of the Act should be postponed till the 1st of July 1898, he, on behalf of the Government, then said that it would not be fair, having regard to the interests of all concerned in the operation of the Bill, to postpone its coming into effect for so long a time; and his proposal that the 31st of March should be the date met with the general acceptance of the Committee. The Government were not disposed to agree to any further extension of the period. He believed there would be ample time for the employers to make their arrangements both in regard to contracts and to any alterations that might be necessary in existing societies.

MR. SETON-KARR (St. Helens), in supporting the appeal to the Government to reconsider their decision, said that more time was required by the employers to consider the new burdens imposed upon them by the Bill. The Measure when once passed would be difficult to alter, and it would be impossible to repeal it, and therefore full time should be given to the employers to realise their position. This was all the more necessary because since the Bill was in Committee the Colonial Secretary had made an important statement in which he quoted certain figures, which according to an authority consulted by the employers of labour were not correct. The right hon. Gentleman stated that the exclusion of the first two weeks would reduce the number of accidents for which compensation had to be paid by 25 per cent., and the liability by 30 per cent. Now Mr. Niesson, a very high authority, had calculated that the exclusion of the two weeks would only reduce the liability by 2½ per cent. There was a very wide difference between 2½ per cent. and 30 per cent.

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Gentleman cannot go into these calculations. The question before the House is whether the Bill is to come into operation in March or in July.

MR. SETON-KARR submitted that his argument was to show why time should be given so that the correct calculations could be ascertained.

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is entitled to state that, but he cannot go into detail.

MR. SETON-KARR said his point was that it was necessary before the Act came into operation that the large industries should have time to consider their position, and if necessary to federate. This was a large question for the workmen as well as for the employer, because it affected the industries upon which the former were dependent for their living, and he therefore spoke as much on behalf of the men he represented as the masters in his constituency. They simply asked for three months in addition to the three months granted in Committee, believing that three months would not be enough. They originally asked for twelve months, and now they ask for six. As this did not touch the principle of the Bill ample time should be given by the Government.

MR. LAURENCE HARDY (Kent, Ashford) also urged that more time should be allowed to the employers to carefully consider schemes of insurance and safeguard their interests under the Bill. In speaking of the contracting out clause, the Colonial Secretary said it would of course be necessary to consider many matters in connection with it; and the right hon. Gentleman went on to say:—

> "I cannot help thinking that should the Bill be passed, time should be given before it is put into operation for these matters to be considered."

He certainly thought that the right hon. Gentleman might, perhaps, be referring to an intention on the part of the Government to allow employers a little more time to devise new schemes. He thought it was not unreasonable to ask the Government whether they could not see their way, mainly for the purpose of promoting the easy working of the Bill, to give the three months now asked for.

MR. W. E. M. TOMLINSON (Preston) believed that without some scheme of insurance this Bill could not be carried out, and would work injuriously both to workmen and employers. It appeared to him that three months was far too short a time to allow for the reconstruction of old schemes or for the creation of new. He believed that a system of compensation for all accidents must lead to some system of State insurance. Supposing it should happen that between now and next Session the authorities in charge of the Bill had evidence before them which led them to think that it was desirable that some further scheme of insurance should be established; the extension of time now asked for would allow that to be done next Session. A workman of great experience in the management of these schemes had deliberately expressed the opinion that the Bill by itself would be by no means so beneficial to the workmen who came under it as the existing schemes were, and if that was the case there would be a desire in some quarters among those brought under the operation of the Bill to supplement it in some way or other. Surely it was not too much to ask that the operation of so revolutionary a measure should be postponed so that employers would have time to turn round and consider their position.

Amendment negatived.

FIRST SCHEDULE.

SCALE AND CONDITIONS OF COMPENSATION—SCALE.

(1.) The amount of compensation under this Act shall be—

(*a*) where death results from the injury—

(i.) if the workman leaves dependants, a sum equal to his earnings during the three years next preceding the injury, or the sum of one hundred and fifty pounds, whichever of those sums is the larger, but not exceeding in any case three hundred pounds, provided that the amount of any weekly payments made under this Act shall be deducted from such sum; and

(ii.) if he leaves no dependants, the reasonable expenses of his medical attendance and burial, not exceeding ten pounds;

(*b*) in case of total or partial incapacity for work resulting from the injury, a weekly payment during the incapacity after the second week not exceeding fifty per cent. of his average weekly earnings at that employment during the previous twelve months, but if the period of his engagement has been less than twelve months, then the average during the period of his actual engagement, such weekly payment not to exceed one pound.

(2.) In fixing the amount of the weekly payment, regard shall be had to the difference between the amount of the weekly earnings of the workman before the accident and the amount which he is able to earn after the accident.

(3.) The payment shall be made on the application of the person entitled thereto, or his authorised representatives.

(4.) The payment shall, in case of death, be made to the legal person representative of the workman, or, if he has no legal personal representative, to his dependants, or, if he leaves no dependants, to the person to whom the expenses are due.

(5.) The expression "dependants" in this schedule means such members of the workman's family specified in the Fatal Accidents Act 1846, as were wholly or in part dependant upon the earnings of the workman at the time of or immediately prior to his death; and any question as to who is a dependant, or as to the amount payable to each dependant shall, in default of agreement, be settled by arbitration under this Act.

(6.) The sum allotted as compensation may be invested or otherwise applied for his benefit as directed by the committee or other arbitrator.

(7.) Any sum ordered by the committee or arbitrator to be invested may be ordered to be invested in whole or in part in the Post Office Savings Bank by the Registrar of the County Court in his name as Registrar.

(8.) Any sum so ordered to be invested may be accepted by the Postmaster-General as a deposit in the name of the Registrar as such, and the provisions of any statute or regulations respecting the limits of deposits in savings bank, and the declaration to be made by a depositor, shall not apply to such sums.

(9.) No part of any money invested in the name of the Registrar of any County Court in the Post Office Savings Bank under this Act, shall be paid out to any Registrar, except upon authority addressed to the Postmaster General by the Treasury or by the Judge.

(10.) Any person deriving any benefit under any moneys paid into a Post Office Savings Bank under the provisions of this Act, may nevertheless open an account in a Post Office Savings Bank or in any other savings bank in his own name, without being liable to any penalties imposed by any statute or regulations in respect of the opening of accounts in two savings banks, or of two accounts in the same savings bank.

(11.) Any weekly payment may be reviewed at the request either of the employer or of the workman, and on such review may be ended, diminished, or increased, subject to the maximum above provided, and the amount or payment shall, in default of agreement, be settled by arbitration under this Act.

(12.) Where any weekly payment has been continued for not less than twelve months the liability therefor may, on the application of either the workman or the employer, be redeemed by the payment of a lump sum, to be settled by arbitration under this Act, but not exceeding three hundred and twelve times the weekly payment payable at the date of the application.

(13.) A weekly payment shall not be capable of being assigned, charged, or attached, and shall not pass to any other person by operation of law.

(14.) In the application of the Act and of this schedule to Scotland the expression "dependants" means the persons who, according to the law of Scotland, are entitled to sue the employer for damages or solatium in respect of the death of the workman, and who are wholly or in part dependent upon the earnings of the workman at the time of or immediately prior to his death.

SIR HENRY HOWORTH (Salford, S.) moved, in Sub-section (*a*), Section (1), to leave out the words "if the workman leave dependants," which would necessitate also, he said, the omission of the second sub-section. He wished to make a strong appeal to his right hon. Friend in charge of the Bill to reconsider the position of the Government in this question. It seemed to him that the principle of having two scales of compensation, dependent not upon the wages a man received, nor upon the risks he ran, nor upon the kind of occupation he was engaged in, but dependent entirely on the adventitious fact that he might or might not have a number of people dependent upon him was absolutely indefensible on economical and other grounds, and would certainly lead to very disastrous results in trades in which the occupation was a dangerous one. It must inevitably lead in such cases to the exclusion from employment of married men and with children. The Bill put a tremendous penalty on the employer who employed married men. In collieries especially, where a large number of the employés were men with families, the risk that would be run in employing such men would be a very serious and awkward one, and for the sake of the men employed, apart altogether from the enormously enhanced cost of working coal, he would appeal to the Government to reconsider their decision as to the scale of compensation.

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY could not think his hon. Friend was in earnest in proposing this Amendment. His argument was that an inducement was held out to employers to employ men who had no dependants. In the first place, that argument was not borne out by the experience of the relief societies, which recognised the principle followed in the Bill, and he had not heard that the effect of the rules of those societies had been to induce employers to select only those men who had no dependants. If the liabilities were the same, whether there were dependants or not, a further question would arise as to who was to have the money. Surely that was a practical question. He could hardly think that employers would be willing to agree to an Amendment which imposed the same liability whether there were dependants or not.

Amendment negatived.

MR. PARKER SMITH (Lanarkshire, Partick) moved an Amendment applying the scale of compensation payable in case of death where the workman leaves dependants "wholly dependent upon his earnings at the time of or immediately prior to his death." This had to be read in connection with a subsequent Amendment as follows:—

> "If the workman leaves dependants in part dependent upon his earnings at the time of or immediately prior to his death, such sum not exceeding in any case the amount specified in the preceding sub-section as the arbitrators may consider reasonable and proportionate to the injury to such dependants."

The scheme of the Bill was to divide the cases into two classes—the case where the workman left dependants, and the case where he did not. The object of the Amendment was to introduce a third class—the case where the workman left people partly dependent—the principle being that, whereas the scale might be quite reasonable for the case of the father of a family leaving persons wholly dependent, many cases would arise in which the earnings of the person killed formed only a small part of the earnings of the so-called dependants, and, therefore, under the scale of the Bill the amount to be paid to those partial dependants would be much larger than anything they actually lost by the death of the workman. In the case of a man over 65 there would rarely be anyone except his wife wholly dependent upon him, and in that case it would be arguable whether the scale of the Bill was not excessive; while, in the case of young persons earning 5s. or so a week, the amount given by the scale would represent perhaps a dozen years' wages of the child killed. The scheme in the Bill seemed to look simply to the case of the full-grown man in the prime of life, and there was reason to fear that if it stood as it was the effect might be serious in discouraging the employment of old men. The limitation of dependants was taken from the Fatal Accidents Act, but that Act included the principle of the present Amendment. It did not contain any minimum, but it gave power to the jury to award a less sum so as to cover the actual loss of the person. He thought that in this Bill, one way or another, a similar provision ought to be made, and that not merely the case of grown-up men but the case of old men and children ought to be considered; and he believed that the suggestion in the Amendment, without drawing any arbitrary or hard and fast line, such as the age of 65 or 12s. a week, would give discretion to the arbitrator to meet the requirements of justice by reducing the amount of compensation.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.) said that he did not dispute for a moment the importance of the question raised by his hon. Friend and the reasonableness of the arguments which he had advanced in support of the Amendment. The fact was that this Amendment and other Amendments on the Paper to which reference had been made, raised the question of scale under the Bill in case of death; and there was this peculiarity about the scale, that the minimum had been fixed at £150. To that extent the discretion of the arbitrator, which they had endeavoured to preserve throughout the Bill, had been limited. He was bound to admit that he saw in that a certain inconsistency. The Government held very strongly to the view that in dealing with the different complexities of trade it was impossible to stereotype terms and put them into a statute; they must allow a certain freedom to the judge or arbitrator who had to decide a case of doubt. In most cases they had, he thought, preserved that freedom of the arbitrator. But in the present case the freedom of the arbitrator had been limited by the schedule, and, as a rule, there were two questions which undoubtedly arose. The first was the case where the minimum fixed might be more than the value of the deceased to the dependants who were to benefit; and it was conceivable, therefore, that the death of the workman might actually be an advantage to the persons who were interested in his wages. Certainly, at first sight, there appeared to be an anomaly. The second case was that where the wages of the person killed did not amount to the sum which would justify the compensation given. Take the case of an old man who was in casual employment, and earning 5s. a week. On his death £150 had to be paid to his dependents just the same as if he were a workman in full health, earning 30s. or 40s. a week. That also constituted an anomaly. He thought his hon. friend would see that the Government appreciated the difficulty that had been raised. He did not look, however, on the proposal of his hon. friend as being at first sight absolutely satisfactory. He thought that the division which the hon. Member had proposed between those who were wholly and those who were partially dependent was rather arbitrary. For instance, suppose that a wife was dependent upon her husband, but that she earned by charing an occasional 2s. a week. She would be only partially dependent, but it would be very hard to make a distinction between a wife in that position and another woman who was wholly dependent. The difference between wholly and partially in that case was very trifling, and one which it was impossible to deal with in the terms of a Bill. There were other exceptional cases which suggested themselves to his mind, and they went to show how extremely difficult it was to find words to do absolute justice in all these cases. He was bound to say, however, that, having recognised these difficulties, and having departed from the principles of the Bill by limiting the discretion of the arbitrator in this one case by fixing the minimum at £150, the Government had raised some difficulties which he thought had not been fully discussed on previous stages of the Bill, and which they ought to endeavour to meet. While he did not feel justified on behalf of the Government in accepting the Amendment, he hoped that his hon. Friend would see that the Government were alive to the difficulties raised, and he trusted that they might be able in the course of further consideration of the Bill to be able by some means to give effect to the suggestion.

MR. A. CRIPPS (Gloucester, Stroud) said that the Amendment proposed that there should be discrimination between the cases of "wholly dependent" in the case of a workman killed, and where the dependent on the workman was "partially dependent." The Colonial Secretary had pointed out that in some cases the person who was partially dependent might be entitled to substantially the same amount of compensation as a person wholly dependent. This case was dealt with in the Amendment, because in that case the arbitrator was to have full discretion. It was only a question of taking away the minimum, and if the arbitrator thought it right in any particular case to give the same measure of compensation as the Bill would give, where a dependent was wholly dependent this would be within the discretion of the arbitrator; and he hoped that on further consideration the right hon. Gentleman would see that the possible injustice to which he referred would not in any circumstances arise if the whole of the Amendment of the hon. Member were accepted. This case had been in the mind of those who had prepared the Amendment, and the whole of the Amendment looked at as one was carefully worded. They must discriminate in the Bill in order to get a fair measure of compensation; this was all that the hon. Member proposed as regarded that portion of his Amendment. The other point referred to by the Colonial Secretary was, he thought, of equal importance, but it rested on a different principle. It was not a question whether a dependent was partially dependent on a workman, but whether the compensation was not out of proportion to the earnings of the workman at the date of his death. This point was not immediately dealt with in the Amendment, but still it was essential that it should be considered. The point had been raised on the Committee stage, and the Colonial Secretary acknowledged the difficulty. Supposing they had a workwoman or a child earning 5s. a week, then they had a minimum compensation of £150; thus they gave 13 years' wages as compensation in a case of that kind. No one would suggest that this would be fair. Again, suppose a case of compensation between workmen and workmen, not employer and employed. Was it fair that the fellow workmen in that particular case should provide 13 years' compensation? It would be far more fair in all these cases that the amount of compensation should be proportioned to the earnings of the person injured or killed. If in all cases they apportioned the compensation to the amount of earnings they attained a fair and self-acting system. No one would suggest that they ought to give £150 as a minimum in the case he had suggested. He hoped that the Colonial Secretary would consider these two points, not in any way with a view to cutting down the terms of compensation under the Bill, but in order that they might establish a fair adjustment and to apportion the amount of award to the proportion of the injury.

*MR. J. WILSON (Durham, Mid) said he wished to reply to the previous speaker on two points he had made in connection with the case of a child earning 5s. a week, and the supposed injustice as between workman and workman. As to the injustice between workman and workman, he might be allowed to point out that in their relief societies the workmen entailed that injustice upon themselves now, because there was no distinction made as to the amount of relief between the man who had a wife and several children and the man who had no wife. It might be argued that in strict justice there ought to be a differential rate of compensation, according to a man's earning power and the number of persons dependent on him, but that would raise another serious complication, and cause a great bar to cases being promptly dealt with. The Bill had been very much altered since it was brought forward, and they had now another alteration suggested by the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary for the Colonies; and he would like to suggest that the right hon. Gentleman should tell them exactly what they had to meet in these amendments. This matter was fully discussed in Committee; the right hon. Gentleman heard the same arguments; and if it was necessary, as he said, to make some alteration to meet what he called the justice of the case, why was the Amendment not put down on the Paper? In his own opinion it was not necessary; but if the right hon. Gentleman had anything of the kind in mind, he could not have been impressed by the arguments brought forward that evening, because there was nothing new in them; the same arguments and the same objections were all used at the Committee stage. As to the case of the child earning 5s. a week, was there not such a thing as prospective dependence upon a son? He could understand the case of a father of a family dying and leaving a son who was earning low wages and the widow struggling on till the boy grew up The widow had what he called a prospective right in that boy—she was depending on him for support in her old age. Now, if this Bill was intended to meet injuries sustained, that was a case which should receive some consideration when the right hon. Gentleman brought forward his proposals. He hoped that if the Colonial Secretary intended to carry out the ideas he had suggested, he would give them some outline beforehand so that they might have time to consider it, and not leave it to the fag-end of the session, when there would not be full opportunity to study the whole bearings of the question. He feared that the benefit of the Bill to the workman was being very much minimised, and if the right hon. Gentleman did bring forward an alteration that would authorise the committee or the arbitrator to inquire how much a family was dependent on the injured workman, wholly or partially, then it must tend to further minimise the benefit that was intended to accrue to the workman. He would urge the right hon. Gentleman to re-consider any idea he might have in his mind, which was no doubt intended to mollify hon. Gentlemen who spoke from the employer's point of view. He did not think there was any need for them to fear, for he believed that every iota of benefit that went to the workman would in the long run be most assuredly paid for by the workman himself. They must look at this thing as straight as they could. Workmen must not be deluded—at least, he was not deluded—into thinking they were going to get any great gifts from the employer, because he believed that the relations between wages and prices were so close that any benefit paid by the employer would come out of wages in the end. Let them speak plainly. It might be that the employer was the best and the most necessary channel through which the workman could receive this money; but let them fully recognise that the money which came through would ultimately come from the workman from the producing power of the workman. ["Hear, hear!"] He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would not bring forward any alteration to produce complications. Too many complications had been produced in the Bill already, and this would make another. Let any hon. Member bring before his mind a county like Durham where there were between 70,000 and 80,000 men down in the mines; let him consider that from 17,000 to 18,000 accidents occurred in a year, and if

10,000 of these had to be decided by a committee or by arbitration as what the workman was to receive based on his earning power for the time being, it was obvious that the court or committee would become so congested with arrears of work that it would be many months perhaps before any money was paid to the sufferer. Anything of this kind must tend to check the speedy operation of the Bill. He certainly thought that this was a point upon which the decision of the committee might be fairly maintained, and he urged the Government to maintain it.

MR. SETON-KARR said in supporting the Amendment, and in putting down an Amendment of a similar nature on the Paper, he had no desire to minimise the fair and just compensation payable under the Bill. It had been said that this matter was fully discussed in Committee. He ventured to differ. A very short discussion took place late in the evening. The point raised was admitted to be a very important one, and the Government went so far as to say that it was a point which had escaped their attention, and they would, between Committee and Report stage, look into it and see what could be done. He did not for a moment complain of what the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary for the Colonies had said, so far as the merits of the case were concerned, but there was some justice in the complaint of the hon. Member who had just sat down, and he did think, after what passed in Committee, that it was a pity the Government had not seen their way to put down on the Paper the Amendment by which they would desire to meet the case. It was an important matter. Let him put a case which had not been mentioned at all. The case of the child earning a few shillings a week had been spoken of. Take the case of a man with half-a-dozen full-grown sons working in a colliery or a glass-blowing factory. The old couple were dependent on the sons, each of whom perhaps contributed 2s. a week to their parents, who might be able to do some trifling work besides. If one of these sons was killed, as the Bill now stood these parents would be entitled to receive a minimum of £150—all discretion to reduce would be taken away from the arbitrator. Yet look at the parents' loss by actuarial figures. Two shillings a week was £5 a year; three years' payments were £15; therefore, on a simple calculation, a payment of fifteen or twenty years would more than meet the justice of the case. Yet the arbitrator was absolutely prevented from awarding the old couple less than £150. As he said in Committee, the Bill was altogether one-sided. Here was a case of absolute injustice—it was lavish generosity at the expense of the employer, or rather at the expense of the employé. The Amendment he had put down, and that of his hon. Friend, were intended to meet this case. It took away nothing from the workman, it merely gave the arbitrator a fair discretion. There was another view to be taken, viz., that they were putting a very high premium on the death of an able-bodied man. To his old parents that man would be worth four or five times as much when dead as he was when alive. ["Oh!"] He was no doubt putting it perhaps in what some people would think a brutal way. But it was the simple fact of the case; and he thought, therefore, that it was a point which the Government should meet. The right hon. Gentleman the Secretary for the Colonies had met these arguments in a fair and conciliatory spirit; but there had been one month or more between the Committee and the report stage, and he confessed he should have liked to know in what way they proposed to meet a point in the Bill which must be met if anything like justice was to be done. The right hon. Gentleman would see that in his Amendment he had practically embodied the same point as his hon. Friend, and he should like to know if there was anything in the words set down that the right hon. Gentleman would be prepared to accept in regard to this point. He did not believe that the Amendment would have the effect of complicating the proceedings before the arbitrator.

SIR W. HARCOURT thought the House ought to have a clearer declaration from the Government with regard to the alteration which they proposed to make in the Bill. They ought to be told how and why this alteration was to be made. Did the Government intend to abandon the minimum altogether, or did they intend to fix a lower minimum?

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY wished to make it clear that the Government had no intention of abandoning the minimum. What they thought was that the words in the Bill appeared to limit the discretion of the arbitrator. [Sir W. HARCOURT: "Of course, it would not be a minimum if the arbitrator had the power to award a smaller sum!"] His right hon. Friend had shown that in certain cases it would not be just that the arbitrator should have no discretion. As yet, however, the Government had not found any form of words which would meet the necessities of the case.

MR. HENRY BROADHURST (Leicester) had heard the statement of the Colonial Secretary with considerable alarm. The arguments used by the hon. Member for Stroud and the hon. Member for St. Helens showed that they did not understand labour matters. They seemed to think that a boy who was just entering upon a life of labour was to be reckoned of less value to his family than a man who had been working for a number of years. That was quite wrong. A poor widow left with children dependent upon her labour counted the days up to the time when her eldest boy was able to work, and when he was at work she counted the months that must elapse before he would get an advance of wages. In the lad, in fact, lay her chief hope. In the case of a man who had worked for 30 years, so much of his capital—that was, his capacity for work—had gone. The lad of 16 had all those years to the good, and was therefore of greater value to his family. He wanted the Colonial Secretary to consider the following case: A member of a family was often dependent upon a family contribution for the greater part of his or her maintenance. Supposing three brothers contributed and one of them was killed, the survivors might not be able to subscribe a sufficient amount to keep the dependent member of the family out of the workhouse. What would be done in a case of that kind were the proposal of the hon. Member for the Partick Division accepted?

MR. CHAMBERLAIN explained that the suggestion that had been made was that the arbitrator should be given discretion to take into account all the circumstances of the case, and to award a less sum if the circumstances of the case should warrant it, but only under those conditions. In the case put by the hon. Member the arbitrator would, he presumed, award the full sum.

MR. BROADHURST said that that assurance relieved his anxiety in a Measure. The Bill contained very much that was good, and he wished to preserve as much of it as possible, and to leave in it as little as possible that was vague.

MR. STUART-WORTLEY (Sheffield, Hallam) said he did not think anybody wished to deprive the arbitrator of the discretion and power to give an old widow the prospective value of the earnings of her son whom she had lost by an accident. That, however, did not cover the whole case, and if they were to speak of surrenders they must refer to a contention which had been repeatedly made on the Committee stage, that justice forbade that anyone should be pecuniarily the gainer by the death of a workman. If there was to be a minimum it should be that sum which under the old law a jury would have given when a case was brought before it, and such a sum being variable could not be fixed in a Bill. He thought therefore that it would be best to give an unfettered discretion to the arbitrator.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. LAURENCE HARDY moved in paragraph (*i*), Sub-section (*a*), after the words "a sum equal to his earnings," to insert the words "at that employment." He thought these words were required in order to deal with cases where the employment had not been for three years.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL said the Amendment would not read, and could not be inserted at this point. The House had decided that the sum was either to be equal to the earnings during three years, or to be the sum of £150, and they thought that was the proper way of dealing with the matter.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

SIR ALFRED HICKMAN (Wolverhampton, W.) moved to insert in the same paragraph after the words "preceding the injury," the words

"at that employment, if employed for three years, and, if for a less period, then for the amount of three years' earnings calculated at the rate of his actual earnings during the period employed.'

He thought the compensation should be based not upon the workman's previous earnings, but on what he would probably have earned if he had continued his work.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL pointed out that the words could not be inserted; the words if inserted would have to be "at his employment," or "at the employment." If the hon. Member wished the earnings to be calculated on a different principle he would suggest that he should put forward his Amendment at the end of the sub-section.

MR. GRANT LAWSON (York, N. R., Thirsk) pointed out that some Amendment was necessary as a workman might be employed by two employers, from one of whom he received 2s. 6d. a week, and from the other 30s. The question arose as to what should be paid if he was killed whilst in the employment of the employer who paid him 2s. 6d. a week.

MR. SYDNEY GEDGE (Walsall) cited the case of a man who might have been earning £200 or £300 a year as a teacher but who had lost his situation through drunkenness. Having become a tramp the man might be found a situation by the Church Army at 15s. a week, while his average of earnings for three years would be much more than that.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

SIR WILLIAM HOULDSWORTH (Manchester, N.W.) moved in paragraph (*i*), Sub-section (*a*) to insert after the words "three hundred pounds," the words:—

"and such sum shall be paid in the following manner: (1) By a sum of ten pounds for medical attendance and burial; (2) by weekly payments for fifty-two weeks of two-thirds of his average earnings during the three years next preceding the injury; (3) by a sum at the end of fifty-two weeks equal to the balance of the total amount due for compensation under this Act."

He proposed this Amendment really in the interests of the workmen, but he would also point out that in the case of the smaller employers a lump sum might be a very heavy burden. He would also point out that it was probable that in the majority of cases, after a fatal accident, the relatives of the deceased workman would remove to friends at a distance; and in these circumstances the weekly payments would give rise to considerable difficulty and inconvenience. He knew it had been suggested that the decision of the question whether it would be better to give a lump sum or weekly payments should be left in the hands of the arbitrator. But he objected to any increase in the burden that was already placed on the arbitrator, and besides it would be very difficult for the arbitrator to decide in particular cases whether a lump sum should be given or weekly payments. He would point out that what the widow of the workman killed would first want was a small sum to defray medical and funeral expenses; secondly, provision for some time in the shape of weekly payments, and then after a period of about 12 months, a capital sum which might be devoted to secure for her a permanent livelihood. He believed the best interest of a working man's family would be served by some such arrangement, and he thought that instead of leaving the matter at the discretion of the arbitrator, an automatic system should be provided.

MR. COURTENAY WARNER (Stafford, Lichfield) pointed out that Subsection (6) of the schedule gave the arbitrator discretion to carry out the arrangement suggested in the Amendment if he thought it desirable in any particular case. The words of the Sub-section were:—

"The sum allotted as compensation may be invested or otherwise employed for his benefit, as directed by the committee or other arbitrator."

*SIR JAMES JOICEY (Durham, Chester-le-Street) said the object of the hon. Baronet was an excellent one. Any one that had experience of the way in which the sums paid in the lump as compensation to widows were spent would venture to assert that some such scheme was desirable. When he pointed out that in the event of any large accident in which there were 200 lives lost, a sum of £20,000 or £30,000 would be thrown into one village, it would be seen how desirable it was that the arbitrator should have discretion to deal with the mode of paying the compensation as he thought proper. As his hon. Friend the Member for the Lichfield Division had pointed out, Sub-section (6) gave full power to the arbitrator to make an arrangement such as the hon. Baronet suggested if he thought fit; but as it might be desirable in some cases to give a lump sum rather than weekly payments, it would not be well to fix a hard and fast rule.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN said he thought the object of his hon. Friend was one that would be appreciated everywhere. He confessed that at first he was inclined to accept the Amendment, although it was always objectionable and dangerous to adopt anything in the nature of a stereotyped rule; but on further consideration he had come to the conclusion that Sub-section (6) left to the arbitrator a discretion to make such a disposition of the money as his hon. Friend proposed.

SIR W. HOULDSWORTH asked what would be done with the money in case such an arrangement as he proposed was made.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN said that in that case the £150 or whatever the sum might be would be paid over and invested in the Post Office, and be withdrawn in instalments.

*MR. JOHN WILSON (Durham, Mid) said the labour representatives appreciated the intentions of the hon. Baronet, in moving the Amendment; but they thought it would be well to allow Sub-section (6) to regulate the distribution of the money.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL said that in order to meet the point of his hon. Friend the Member for Wolverhampton, that the earnings on which the amount of compensation was to be based should be the earnings in the employment in which the workman was at the time of his death. He moved to insert in line 8 after "injury," the words, "in the employment in which he was engaged at the time of his death if he has been so long employed."

*MR. JOHN WILSON (Durham, Mid) asked whether the Attorney General meant the employment under an employer for all the industry, or for one branch only of the industry. A man, for instance, might be earning 5s. or 6s. a day in one branch of an industry for two years, and then owing to some change in that branch of the industry he might be put to something else at which he earned only 3s. a day. In such a case as that would the compensation be reckoned on the 3s. a day or on the whole sum the man earned during the three years?

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL said he had endeavoured to meet the particular case mentioned by his hon. Friend behind him, but if hon. Members opposite had any objection to the Amendment he would withdraw it.

*SIR JAMES JOICEY thought there was something in the objection of his hon. Friend the Member for Mid Durham, and he advised the withdrawal of the Amendment.

MR. BENJAMIN PICKARD (York, W.R., Normanton) also supported the withdrawal of the Amendment.

Amendmenlt, by leave, withdrawn.

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY moved, in Sub-section (*b*), to leave out the words, "in case of," and to insert the word "where."

Amendment agreed to.

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY moved in the same paragraph to leave out the word "resulting," and to insert the word "results."

Amendment agreed to.

*COLONEL BLUNDELL moved in paragraph (*b*) to leave out the word "second," and to insert the word "sixth." He said that the object of this Amendment was to indirectly induce employers and employed to form mutual relief societies, and so secure to the employed the guarantee of an association that if injured, he and his would receive the money compensation promised, irrespective of the solvency of the employer; while it would secure to the employer that the supervision of the fellow workmen would be brought to bear upon workmen suffering from bruises and slight strains, owing to their having an interest in the funds which paid them. With regard to the necessity for such mutual associations, in the relief societies of this country, in Germany, and in New Zealand, the workmen had a direct pecuniary interest in the economical administration of accident funds, although their systems differed in detail. If in this country the workman was absolutely severed from all pecuniary interest in accident funds, and these funds were paid for by the employer almost alone, there was a great temptation to a workman to prolong his case, if he was at all given to idleness. The exclusion of compensation for the first fortnight was so small as to be useless as against such prolongation. The House would have noticed the great difference between the calculations of the Home Office and of the employers in respect of the compensation that would be payable. The Home Office in estimating the cost took the average wage of all the workers as the guide; but the relief societies took the past as their guide, and found that the average wage of all the workers did not represent the average wage of the injured, but that the injured were chiefly derived from those earning higher wages and working in more dangerous places. This was specially the case in coal mining. The Home Office, too, did not appear in its calculations of the incidence per ton of the cost of accident to have taken into consideration the liability falling upon the fund from past serious accidents. If in the Act the whole cost was thrown upon the employer, how would the arbitration work referred to in the second schedule? It had been the experience in many cases of arbitration between employers and employed that they were so well conducted that the arbitrator was hardly employed at all. The employer could hardly feel confidence in the representatives of the workman on the arbitration dispensing the moneys which he had to provide, and which they as well as those injured would regard as drawn from a sort of consolidated fund whose dimensions they probably exaggerated absurdly. If they looked at the experience of Germany they found that the Germans had made the mistake of paying too much in small injuries, for this had led to a postponement of the cure. It had, in fact, encouraged malingering. The Government by throwing away self-help parted with the only means whereby that evil could be checked. Anything to be successful must be done mutually. Let employers and employed pay half and half, and then they could safely go as far as they liked; but if one paid all and the other had an equal right to dispense, the scheme would not succeed.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL said that the argument of his hon. Friend really went to the question whether or not a longer period than two weeks should be taken before the allowance could be paid. If the argument was that if a longer period was to be taken there must be back payments of the amount, then there was a forcible objection to the extension of the time, and if the argument was that the employer should not be made responsible until the actual payments began, then there should be as short a period as possible.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucester, Forest of Dean) said that in Committee the House was almost evenly divided on the question whether the payment of compensation should not begin immediately after the accident, or whether there should be an interval of two weeks before the employer should be held to be liable at all. He thought that if any change was to be made in the Bill it should be made in the direction of making the payments to begin on the very earliest day after the accident.

MR. TOMLINSON said the question was not so simple as the Attorney General seemed to suppose. The right hon. Gentleman the Colonial Secretary had suggested that the two weeks taken off would reduce the liabilities of the employers by 30 per cent., but the calculation of that eminent authority, Mr. Neison, showed that the relief in these circumstances would be very small indeed.

*MR. J. WILSON (Durham, Mid.) rose to order. He submitted that this matter was provided for in a former section of the Bill. Sub-section (20) provided that the period should be two weeks.

*MR. SPEAKER: That point has already been taken. The hon. Gentleman is in order.

MR. TOMLINSON, continuing, said that he should be very glad if the figures in relation to this matter would work out as the right hon. Gentleman the Colonial Secretary had made them.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN said that the meaning of the language he used to the deputation had been entirely misconceived. He never said that this deduction of two weeks was equal to 25 per cent. of the value of the compensation. He said it was equivalent to 25 per cent. of the total number of accidents, and he agreed with Mr. Neison that that was equivalent to five per cent. of the value of compensation. Then he went on to say that it not merely knocked out all accidents which lasted two weeks, but that it also knocked off two weeks from the duration of the compensation in regard to all other accidents—that was to say, that in regard to 75 per cent. of the total number of accidents it knocked off two weeks of compensation, and, as the average term of compensation was found by the Miners' Relief Society and other associations to be six weeks, from these accidents the deduction amounted to 30 per cent. These were the two statements he made.

*MR. EMERSON BAINBRIDGE (Lincoln, Gainsborough) said he would like to submit the hon. Gentleman's exact words, and then the House would be able to gauge whether he was justified in the interpretation he had put on them. The right hon. Gentleman said :—

> "I daresay it is well known to most here that the result of that is to exclude altogether at least 25 per cent. of all the accidents that take place, and to exclude two weeks' compensation from all the rest. As the average of incapacity is very small in the vast majority of cases, this practically reduces the amount of compensation by something like 30 per cent."

MR. CHAMBERLAIN : Hear, hear. The first statement is 25 per cent. of the number. The second statement is 30 per cent. reduction of the compensation payable in the great majority of accidents.

*MR. BAINBRIDGE said that though he accepted the explanation, he was justified in his interpretation. This Amendment really dealt with one of the most important principles in the Bill—namely, what proportion should the employer bear as compared with the burden imposed on the workman. On the one side there was two weeks to be borne by the workman and on the other side the rest to be borne by the employer. As he had said, he thought this a very unjust burden. The right hon. Gentleman, the Colonial Secretary, on the same occasion, used the following important words :—

> "I think the most important of all the points to which reference has been made, and one which has already given us an immense deal of anxiety and continues to occupy our attention is the question of the prevention of malingering."

He suggested that one of the surest ways of reducing malingering was to extend the two weeks to a longer period.

Amendment negatived.

Amendment made : In Sub-section (*b*), leave out " at that employment."

Leave out : "Then the average during the period of his actual engagement," and insert—

> "If he has been so long employed, but if not, then for any less period during which he has been engaged in the same employment."—(*Sir Matthew White Ridley.*)

MR. PARKER SMITH moved in Sub-section (*b*), after "pound," insert—

> "provided that no such payment shall continue for a longer period than three hundred and sixty-five weeks."

He contended that it was of the greatest importance that the question of this weekly allowance to the workman should be left in such a position as to give a sufficient amount to the workman, and at the same time would be defined in some way and made capable of being insured against. Of course any number of hard cases could be quoted in which the fixing of a maximum would tell hardly, cases in which the incapacity was permanent ; but the principle that hard cases made bad law came in here. They could not take into consideration individual and exceptional cases in laying down a general rule in this way. He thought it important from the point of view of insurance, to have a maximum as definite as possible, and they must make a general estimate of what they thought it fair to impose as a maximum and exclude considerations of possible hard cases, and he submitted that the general rule framed in the Amendment was a satisfactory one to establish.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN hoped his hon. Friend would not press the amendment. He must say that it was discouraging to the Government to find that having made a concession to meet the views of hon. Members in the Committee stage, and that concession having been accepted, it was now proposed to upset the arrangement and to introduce quite a different principle. He did not think it was to the advantage of the workman that there should be this maximum established, nor would it be fair to the workman. If they took a case of permanent injury and incapacity, such payment as would be included in a payment of 365 weeks might be a very insufficient compensation. It was said that this change was necessary in order that the insurance might be effective. That was an argument advanced with reference to commutation, and it had some weight with the Government, but it was one which could not be advanced in regard to the present Amendment. In the first place, insurance offices had plenty of definiteness in their arrangements. They only wanted to know what the average was, and in this case there was ample means at the disposal of the insurance offices to enable them to say how many accidents involving permanent and total incapacity were likely to come forward for compensation. They would be able to make an exact calculation from the returns in the different trades, such as was afforded, for example, by the returns of the miners' relief societies. That was one reason, and the second reason was, if it was insufficient they always had the opportunity, if an accident was going on for an indefinite time, of coming forward under the commutation clause. He thought the Government had gone quite as far as they could be expected to go.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis) said that as the right hon. Gentleman had explained it, the employer would have the opportunity to go forward and commute, but as he read the words, he would have no opportunity at all of doing so unless the arbitrator agreed to let him have it. [MR. CHAMBERLAIN: "Hear, hear!"] Then it was not a commutation clause absolutely but only potentially, and what his hon. Friend proposed was that there should be an absolute limit and that limit, in his opinion, was a generous one. As the words stood, the weekly payment might go on for an indefinite period, only to be increased by the life of the persons injured.

MR. CRIPPS thought that the Colonial Secretary hardly appreciated what was intended to be guarded against by the Amendment. Why should they limit the liability in the case of the rich employer who was able to commute and leave it unlimited in the case of the poorer employer who could not afford to commute because he could not afford the expense of commutation? They might have an employer by no means a rich man, very little richer than his workman. The workman might be permanently injured by some stranger over whose acts the employer had no control at all. What was the result? A man, equally poor, who had a wife and children dependent upon him, had to provide during the whole lifetime of another under the terms of this Bill. He said without any hesitation that that, as a matter of principle, was not right. The small employer would not be able to insure at all, because the expense of keeping a small account would be greater than any benefit the insurance company would be able to derive from it; and it was exactly in the case of the small employer that it was specially hard there should be no limit of liability at all.

MR. C. B. RENSHAW (Renfrew, W.) hoped there would be some definite assurance from the Government, because the words as they stood had raised a great deal of doubt in the minds of employers in various industries. It was important that the House should be invited to consider the limitation of 365 weeks from the point of view submitted by the hon. and learned Member for Stroud; especially in the interests of the small employer, who would be by far the most injured by the provisions of this Bill, it should be made perfectly clear that the liability in respect of an accident was only to run for seven years and no longer.

MR. TOMLINSON said that there was only one conclusion to be drawn from the argument which had been addressed to the House, that whatever was done with this Amendment the Bill could not be made to operate fairly and justly unless it was accompanied by State insurance. The only employments that were exempt from difficulty on that account were the large ones, employing a large number of persons entitling them to become their own insurers. But if they took an employment liable to some sudden catastrophe, or a small employer without capital, it was manifest that in these cases the employers would very often be left in a very unfair position.

MR. PARKER SMITH: Does the Colonial Secretary mean to insert the words "be ordered to" when we come to section 12?

MR. CHAMBERLAIN: No, those words are not to be moved.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*SIR A. HICKMAN moved at the end of Sub-section (*b*), to insert the following proviso:—

> "The workman shall produce, when so required, to the employer a certificate, from a duly qualified medical practitioner appointed and paid by the employer for that purpose, that his incapacity for work occasioned by the accident continues; and, in the event of such certificate being refused, he shall be entitled to appeal to the arbitrator."

He said that these requirements were found to be necessary by universal experience. In arrangements between workmen and employers it was always customary, and in Mutual Benefit Societies and Friendly Societies rules existed towards this end. He quoted from the rules of the Oddfellows, the Free Foresters, and the Free Gardeners, showing that a certificate should not only be produced, but that the person disabled should be visited every week by one of the officers. The rules of those societies had been made by the men for their own government, and had been in operation for many years; if they had been found to be irksome no one could doubt that they would have been modified long ago. A workman's certificate could be produced by the man's wife or child, and it might be taken for granted that the employer would not insist unnecessarily upon the production of a certificate, because every certificate was to be provided at his expense. Without some such provision as this the Bill would be absolutely unworkable. He had supported the Bill from the beginning, and he had not advocated any change which would in any degree lessen the advantages to be received by the men. In making this proposal he was doing it in the interests of the smooth working of the Bill. He was willing to accept anything which should provide that a workman should go to a surgery to be examined.

SIR JAMES JOICEY (Durham, Chester-le-street) said there was nothing unreasonable in the hon. Baronet's asking for some form of words to carry out the object of the Amendment he had put on the Paper. There was nothing at all in the Bill by way of precaution against malingering. He was not prepared to say that workmen were greater malingerers than anybody else; he should say that Members of Parliament under similar circumstances would be as great malingerers as workmen. [*Laughter.*] But it was a precaution that was found to be necessary in the case of every fund where benefits during incapacity were given. He held in his hand the rules of the Miners' Permanent Relief Fund, a great relief fund in connection with the miners of Durham and Northumberland. That fund, though contributed to by the employers, was altogether managed by the men, and the rules specially provided for the renewal of the medical certificate every fortnight if deemed necessary by the local committee. He was not tied to any particular form of words—he had an Amendment down on the Paper which provided for the same thing as the hon. Baronet's; but he thought everybody would agree that it was perfectly reasonable that there should be some precaution of this kind to insure that the compensation should not be continued when the workman was not really any longer incapable of working. ["Hear, hear!"]

MR. W. ABRAHAM (Glamorgan, Rhondda) said he should not have taken part in this discussion had it not been for a few of the speeches they had heard that afternoon on the necessity of employers providing for workmen. They had about 100,000 men in the district of Wales which he had the honour to represent, and they paid for their own doctor. They had agreed on a principle, and the representatives of the Welsh miners were not afraid of their men being so dishonest as was represented by some hon. Members on both sides of the House. [An hon. MEMBER: "Nothing has been said about dishonesty!"] The men he represented were not opposed to certificates required for a reasonable time—they were not in the least afraid of such a provision, because they themselves required those certificates from their fellow men. But where hon. Members missed the point was here—these societies provided their own medical officers, and it was by the medical officers which the society provided that the men were examined. The proposal now made was that the employer who had not provided the workmen with any medical assistance, should be allowed to provide them with a medical detective. ["Hear, hear!"] If the right hon. Gentleman would say that the medical officer should be an impartial man provided by the State, they would agree to it at once—["Hear, hear!"]—but to allow the employer to provide a medical detective was most unreasonable.

MR. J. WILSON (Durham, Mid) said he perceived that the Home Secretary had an Amendment down which indicated that the Secretary of State should provide medical practitioners for this purpose. He suggested that the Amendment should be withdrawn, because there was serious objection on the part of the men to the appointment of the examining doctor by the employer. Much had been said about malingering; but doctors could malinger as well as workmen. ["Hear, hear!"]

MR. CHAMBERLAIN said he had listened carefully to what had been said by hon. Members on both sides about the Amendment, which was not necessarily a controversial one. ["Hear, hear!"] He said it was admitted by both sides that something of the kind suggested should be provided for; the only question was how they should proceed. It was admitted that all these relief associations found it necessary to require frequent examinations of the workmen who were claiming compensation. Therefore, it might be fairly claimed that when the employer paid compensation in place of the association, he should have exactly the same right as the association now had, and that he also should be entitled to have frequent examination if he thought fit to demand it. He did not mean to say that he liked the exact form of the Amendment, but as he understood the proposal it was that if the employer thought necessary he should at his own expense appoint a doctor who should examine the injured person from time to time. Suppose, however, that upon the report of this doctor the employer alleged that the man was malingering, or was no longer incapacitated, the report of that doctor did not count for anything; it did not lead to the withdrawal of compensation until the report of the employer's doctor had been confirmed by the arbitrator, who might call in what he might call the State doctor; and the result of that was that the State doctor would only be called upon in a case in which there was a dispute between the doctor employed by the employer and the workman. It would be very undesirable, in his opinion, that the State doctor should be called in upon every possible occasion. It was a little too much to ask, as he understood the hon. Member to ask, that the State doctor should be called in to act as the weekly examiner of every incapacitated workman at the demand of the employer. If that were done, instead of there being one State doctor, or even more, in a district, they would want to employ all the doctors in the district for the purpose. And it would be absolutely unnecessary, because he ventured to say that although a clause of this kind might give power to the employer to demand such an examination, there would be many cases in which he would not think of demanding it. ["Hear, hear!"] As the employer would have to pay for the examination, it was quite certain that he would never employ a doctor unless he thought there was reasonable cause to suppose that the workman was no longer incapacitated. Therefore on the whole the object of his hon. Friend's Amendment appeared to be a reasonable one; and the only question he should ask would be—was it so drawn that the demand might be used to the unnecessary annoyance of the workman? ["Hear, hear!"] If so, let them try to prevent that. He found that in the Amendment it was proposed that the workman should, if required, produce to his employer a medical certificate. Now he was going to test the matter by an extreme case. He was assuming an employer who wanted to make a bad use of this provision. In that case he might require the workman—as a mere matter of annoyance, and in the hope that the workman might be tired out—to produce a certificate every week; and that meant that a man who was more or less incapacitated would have to attend somewhere or another once a week to obtain this certificate. Now that appeared to him to be going farther than was necessary—["hear, hear?"]—and he should have thought that the proposal of the hon. Member for St. Helens would be found to be better, because all he required was that the workman should from time to time, if required by the employer, submit himself for examination. He had not got to produce a certificate necessarily, he had from time to time, when required, to submit himself to a medical practitioner, and if he refused (as he was going to suggest) without due reason to submit himself to examination, then the compensation payable would be suspended until he complied. He thought, however, that even if the Government accepted the Amendment of the hon. Member for St. Helens, he would probably not object to give an appeal to the arbitrator if the workmen objected altogether to the examination; and he thought, if they inserted words to that effect, it would get rid of any possibility of a provision of this kind being used by the employer to harass the workmen—because if the workman thought it was evidently unnecessary and absurd that he should be called upon to submit to examination under the particular circumstances of the case, he would put the case before the arbitrator, and the employer would be at once told that he was not to make the requisition. ["Hear, hear!"] On the whole, then, he thought that the object could be accomplished, and that they ought to accomplish it, and as at present advised he thought it best to accept with a slight amendment the Amendment of the hon. Member for St. Helens.

Mr. BROADHURST said if the right hon. Gentleman could produce a scheme to carry out this to the full, every Member representing workmen would accept it. ["Hear, hear!"] All the Trade Unions had the strictest possible regulations; and in addition, in many Unions they had visiting members whose duty it was to keep an eye on the sick member to see that he was doing his best to get well as soon as possible. The only doubt they had with regard to this Amendment was this—that instead of employing a doctor who knew the progress of the case and was thoroughly acquainted with it, the employer might select one who had no special responsibility as to the consequences of a too early return to work, and he might even be in reality the doctor of the insurance company in which the employer was insured. ["Hear, hear!"]

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN: Does the hon. Gentleman understand that in the case he names, the report of the employer's doctor could not have any effective result? All it would do would be to inform the employer, who would have to take certain steps if he wished to withdraw the compensation. It would be a double process. The right hon. Gentleman hoped that his hon. friend (Sir A. Hickman) would withdraw his Amendment, and suggested that the exact form of words to be adopted should be considered on the Amendment of the hon. Member tor St. Helens.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*Mr. HARRISON (Plymouth) moved to insert at the end of Sub-section (1):—

"(*c*) Where such injury within twelve calendar months from the occurrence of the accident causing such injury directly causes to the workman the loss by physical separation, whether by accident or surgical operation consequent thereon, of a hand or a foot, or the complete and irrecoverable loss of sight of an eye, a payment for each such loss as aforosaid equal to 50 per cent. of the amount that would have been payable had death resulted from the injury under Section 1 (*a*), Sub-sections (1), (2), provided the aggregate amount payable in respect of the accident causing such losses to such workman shall not exceed the maximum compensation payable under Section (1) (*a*), Sub-sections (1) and (2)."

He said the object of the Motion was to insert in this schedule, which in effect constituted the terms and conditions of a statutory policy of insurance between workman and employer, a fixed amount of compensation for the physical loss by accident of a hand or a foot, or the irrecoverable loss of an eye. The Motion proposed 50 per cent. of the amount payable at death for each such loss, and in no case exceeding the total maximum payable under the Act. The weekly compensation was limited by the words of the Bill to "the duration of incapacity." The duration of incapacity from work in the case of an injury to an eye followed by its loss might be a few weeks only, and it would be urged that the workman might not be incapacitated, after the actual loss of the eye, from work; but yet under the Bill he would receive no compensation for such loss unless the Bill was amended as proposed by the Motion. For that reason alone the proposal should be adopted. There was not a single accident policy issued, whether for personal accident, employers' liability, or accidents to workmen, but what contained conditions to the effect of those mentioned in the Motion. Workmen Accident Fund policies contained similar provisions. Further, the provisions would encourage assurance, as in its absence the offices would charge larger premiums, even if they did not refuse them altogether.

*SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY said the Government could not entertain the Amendment without going much further, and entering into minute detail.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. T. W. LEGH (Lancashire, Newton) moved to add at the end of Sub-section (1) :—

> "Every workman directly employed and paid by some person other than the undertaker, as hereinbefore defined, shall from time to time, when required so to do, furnish full particulars as to the amount of his weekly earnings to any employer who may be liable to pay compensation to such workman under the provisions of this Act."

He instanced the case of a hewer of coal in Lancashire where it was difficult for the employer to know the amount of a man's earnings, and urged that, while the proposal would be slightly to the benefit of the employer, there would be nothing inquisitorial. He believed the Amendment would be a real advantage to both parties.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN said that he could not see that this Amendment would be of much advantage to the employer, and it might be a great annoyance to the workpeople. If the hon. Member could not trust the injured workman to state what his earnings had been, how could he trust him to make this return, which would probably be perfunctorily filled up, because no one would see the importance of it until the accident had occurred. The employer had the right to go to the arbitrator if he thought the workman had exaggerated the amount of his wages.

Amendment negatived.

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY moved, in Sub-section (2), before the word "weekly," to insert the word "average."

Amendment agreed to.

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY moved, in the same sub-section, before the word "amount," to insert the word "average."

Amendment agreed to.

*SIR J. JOICEY moved, at the end of Sub-section (2), after the word "accident," to insert the words—

> "and to any payment which he may receive from the employer in respect of his injury, and to the value of any house or fuel with which he may be provided by the employer during the incapacity."

He said that this Amendment only affected the Northumberland and Durham districts. It had long been the custom there, when a workman in a mine was incapacitated by an accident, to give him during the period of his incapacity his house-rent, coal, rates and taxes, and compensation known as "smart-money." This system had worked well and had given satisfaction, both to employers and workmen. To a certain extent the Bill would interfere with the system; and his Amendment provided that the contribution which he had mentioned should be taken into account by the arbitrator in fixing the compensation under the Bill. The supposed wages of the workmen were, say, 26s. a week, and in case of incapacity by accident, the arbitration would be able to award half the wage, or 13s. a week. But the Northumberland and Durham miner would receive, apart from the Bill, rent, coal, rates and taxes, amounting to, say, 5s. a week, and "smart-money" amounting to another 5s. a week. Perhaps it would be contended that the rent, coal, rates and taxes were really a part of the man's wages; and on that basis the wages would be not 26s. but 31s. per week. Then the arbitrator would be able to award 15s 6d. a week. But the workman would continue to have the benefit of his house and coal; and if he got the "smart-money" as well he would be receiving 25s. 6d. a week from his employer instead of the 31s. he was supposed to have been earning before the accident. The arbitrator was to take account of the difference between the man's earnings before the accident and what he was able to earn afterwards; and that very thing being specifically mentioned, the arbitrator would be bound to consider no other circumstance. He hoped, therefore, that the Amendment would be accepted, or some localities would be placed under a great disadvantage.

*MR. JOHN WILSON (Durham, Mid.) said that he was very sorry that the hon. Baronet had raised this question. The custom to which he had alluded was peculiar to one part of the country, and it would have been better to leave it out of the discussion. He was glad to hear the hon. Baronet state that house-rent, rates, taxes and coal were part of the men's wages. The statement would no doubt be of use to the miners in their future dealings with the hon. Baronet. Putting them, as the hon. Baronet did, as worth 5s. a week, meant 1s. a day on each working day. The average wage of the workmen included in this Bill was a great deal less in the county of Durham than 26s. a week. The hon. Baronet had made a threat that if this Amendment were accepted the miners of Durham and Northumberland might prepare themselves for having their houses and coal taken away, at least when they were injured, and might have the smart money taken from them.

SIR J. JOICEY said he did not mean anything of the kind.

*MR. J. WILSON (Durham, Mid) said if that was so, why was this Amendment brought forward? He would like the Government to understand the relations which existed at present. These things had been part of their wages during the whole of his life, and for a longer time than that, and if these words were inserted into the Bill it would disturb the wage relations of Durham and Northumberland. They had got on peacefully in those counties, but this Amendment would disturb their peaceful relations, and he suggested to the hon. Baronet that it would be wise to withdraw his Amendment.

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY agreed that it would be desirable if his hon. Friend opposite would not press the Amendment. It had been a matter of controversy not only between political economists, but between practical men as to whether smart money, houses, or fuel were or were not technically part of wages. He gathered that the hon. Baronet did not dispute that.

SIR J. JOICEY said that was undoubtedly so, but his point was, were the wages to continue after incapacity?

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY said that if these things were part of the earnings they would be considered by the arbitrator, but, in any case, he did not think it desirable to insert the words proposed. It would be much better not to complicate the Bill, especially as there appeared to be some doubt attaching to the meaning of the suggested provision, which might have a disastrous effect on the relations between capital and labour in Northumberland and Durham.

MR. CHARLES FENWICK (Northumberland, Wansbeck) said he regretted exceedingly that this Amendment should ever have been put upon the Paper. It would have a tendency to disturb the existing relations between the workmen and their employers. If the Amendment were pressed to a division one effect would be that the workmen, at least in the two counties which had been mentioned, would demand an immediate advance of wages equivalent to the value of their house and coal, and if it was taken on the estimate which the employers themselves had been pleased to put upon the value of these allowances, he thought the workmen would have the best of the bargain.

MR. PICKARD said this did not affect only the miners of Durham and Northumberland but of Lancashire and Yorkshire also. If the matter was pressed it would simply lead to a strike.

Amendment negatived.

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY moved to omit Sub-Section (3).

Amendment agreed to.

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RILDEY moved to insert in Sub-Section (4) after the words "if he has no legal personal representative, to" the words "or for the benefit of."

Amendment agreed to.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL moved to add at the end of Sub-Section (4) the words—

"and if made to the legal personal representative, shall be paid by him to or for the benefit of the dependent or other person entitled thereto under this Act."

Amendment agreed to.

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY moved to omit the first part of Section (5), from the beginning down to "prior to his death; and."

Amendment agreed to.

On the Motion of Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY the following Amendments to Clause 1 were agreed to:—

In Sub-section (6) after the word "compensation," insert the words "to a dependant."

Leave out the words "his benefit," and insert the words "the benefit of the person entitled thereto."

Leave out the word "directed," and insert the words "agreed, or as ordered."

In Sub-section (7) after the word "sum," insert the words "which is agreed or is."

Leave out the words "be ordered to."

In Sub-section (8) leave out the words "so ordered to be," and insert the words "to be so."

After the words "may be," insert the words:—

"invested in the purchase of an annuity from the National Debt Commissioners through the Post Office Savings Bank, or be."

In Sub-section (9) after the word "judge," insert the words "of the county court."

*SIR F. POWELL (Wigan) moved at the end of Sub-section (10) to insert:—

"If the incapacity of the workman is continued or aggravated by excess or misconduct on his part, the arbitrator shall have power to diminish or end the payment."

He remarked that this was in accordance with the rules of the Northumberland and Durham, and the Lancashire and Cheshire Miners' Permanent Relief Societies. The German law was much more severe. The intention was to secure regularity of life on the part of persons in receipt of compensation, and to secure that there should not be waste of money arising from the workman's misconduct.

MR. STUART-WORTLEY said the words the hon. Baronet wished to insert were unnecessary and might be dangerous.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN said the object of the Amendment was already provided for in the Bill.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

On the return of Mr. SPEAKER, after the usual interval,

MR. SETON-KARR moved to add at the end of Sub-section (10):—

"Any workman claiming compensation under this Act shall, if so required by the employer, from time to time submit himself for examination by a duly qualified medical practitioner provided and paid for by the employer. If the workman refuses to submit himself to such examination, or otherwise obstructs the same, his right to such weekly payments shall be suspended until such examination has taken place."

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, on behalf of the Government, accepted the Amendment with the addition of the words:—

"provided that if the workman objects to such examination he may appeal to the arbitrator, whose decision shall be final."

Amendment, as amended, agreed to.

SIR A. HICKMAN moved in Sub-section (10) to add after the words last inserted:—

"in the case of a workman who is not disabled, he shall attend at the house or surgery for the purpose of such examination."

He submitted that when an employer had to pay his workmen half wages while the injury lasted, it was a small return that the workman should take the trouble to walk down to the surgery and submit himself to examination. There could be no hardship in it, and indeed it was an arrangement which had subsisted for many years in connection with the Friendly Societies.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN really thought that his hon. Friend was carrying this legislation into too much detail. The Government in any case could not accept the words he proposed to add. Look at the number of questions that would arise if the words were made part of the statute. They would first of all have to decide whether he was disabled or not, and that was a question they would have to go to arbitration about. It would be a separate arbitration as to whether he was in a state in which he could move to the surgery or whether he was to be visited in his own house. Then there would be the difficulty that they would have to find out where the man was in order to inform him of the address of the surgeon on whom he was expected to call. Surely, too, the surgeon's residence must be at a reasonable distance from the workman; otherwise it would be a harassing demand. It was much better to leave all this to the common sense of both workmen and employers. In the ordinary case the workman would not object to an arrangement to which he was accustomed in his own friendly society.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. FENWICK said he had some difficulty in following the argument that when application was made by a workman or an employer for commutation of liability the arbitrator would have the right in his discretion to refuse power to commute. He was advised this was not so under the provisions of this sub-section, that the workman's employer could apply to the arbitrator to fix the sum to settle his liability, and the workman, if he did not desire to take such lump sum, would have no power to object to commutation on the employer's application, the only question would be the amount of the sum to be paid. In many cases it would be a decided advantage to the workman to receive the large sum,

Sir A. Hickman.

but, as the House might conceive, there were circumstances in which the workman would not desire that, and where it would not be to his advantage to take the lump sum, and in such a case the workman should have the right to have his case heard before an impartial arbitrator. On the other hand, he could understand that an application from a workman to have the account settled by a lump sum might be opposed to the wish of the employer, and there again the objector should have the right to show cause why the arbitrator should refuse the application. The commutation should proceed upon a mutual application, but as he was advised the application was not to be mutual, but if made on behalf of the workman or on behalf of the employer, the arbitrator had no alternative but to grant the application and proceed to settle the sum to be paid on settlement of the account. To meet his view he moved to strike out Sub-section (12).

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL could quite understand the feeling of the hon. Member from his point of view, but he reminded the hon. Member that in Committee this sub-section was adopted as a compromise after considerable discussion, and, as such, accepted on both sides. ["No!"] He quite agreed there was difference of opinion, but it was the sense of a large number of Members. The hon. Gentleman was, he thought, rightly advised that as the clause stood the discretion of the arbitrator was as to the amount, and this was the ordinary and natural meaning to be attached to the words, "the arbitrator may on the application of one party or the other," and that, he thought, was the general sense of those who supported the Amendmene in Committee, and he did not think the House should go back on the decision of the Committee.

*MR. J. WILSON (Durham, Mid) said the hon. and learned Gentleman had clearly stated what had happened. Neither he or his hon. Friend objected to the principle of commutation in itself, but they objected to its being forced upon the workman, the object they had in view was that employer and workman, having agreed, should apply to the arbitrator to have the amount settled. There were cases where commutation might be a benefit to the workman and not acceptable to the employer, but as the sub-section was drawn the workman would have the right to receive a lump sum on making application to the arbitrator. That would not be fair to the employer, for he might think the man was near the point when he might start work, that the state of his health permitted this and so there would be no need for commutation. If the thing could be arranged on lines of mutuality, if the parties agreed to commutation and arranged the amount between themselves or on the decision of the arbitrator that would meet the desired end. Much had been said about the permanent relief funds throughout the country, and experience on this point was certainly in favour of mutuality in application. If a man received 8s. a week from the Relief Fund and desired to have the weekly sum commuted into a lump sum he submitted his proposal, and if it was approved then arrangements were made as to the amount that should be paid. The Government should understand that as far as commuting was concerned they were not opposed to it, but simply they objected to it being competent for the employer or the workman to go to the arbitrator and say, "I want this sum commuted between the two extremes." It might be unfair to the workman who might be permanently injured. He knew of a man who had been disabled for twenty-five years and was yet living but unable to work. It would be an absolute injustice to allow an employer to say "I will commute the payments for which I am liable in this case for a lump sum that may be less than the payments over six years." If there were no maximum fixed the arbitrator might take into his cognisance and consideration the probability of the man being ill for more than six years. It was with the view of making provision for such a case the omission of the sub-section was moved, but if the Government would suggest the insertion of any words giving the sub-section the character desired the Motion would not be persisted in.

*Mr. THOMAS BURT (Morpeth) agreed with his hon. Friends, but the question before the House now was the retention or rejection of the sub-section, though an alternative might be offered in the direction suggested. Considering how fully this subject was discussed in Committee, it was undesirable to re-argue the subject at length now. A Division might be taken to test the opinion of the House, though, for his own part he did not advise that course. Possibly the Government might see their way to give these applications a mutual character in the sense advocated by his hon. Friends.

Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN said the Government did not want to have a Division on this question if it could be avoided. The position was this. It was perfectly true that, speaking as a layman, and therefore ignorantly, he was under the impression that "may" meant "may," and left a certain amount of discretion with the arbitrator to refuse the application, but he gathered from what the Attorney General had said that that was not the case, and that practically the arbitrator would have no discretion to refuse when the application was made to him by either party. So far, he admitted, he was mistaken in his interpretation of the section. But then the Government came under a pledge, or an assurance, not to disturb the arrangement arrived at. It was discussed at some length, and, on the whole, must be regarded as a compromise, and they could not attempt to deal with any possible case that might be imagined to arise. But, at the same time—and it must not be taken as committing the Government to anything more—he was quite ready to pledge himself to give this subject his personal consideration, with a view to seeing if it could be met by Amendment inserted in another place. He did not give any pledge that any alteration should be made.

Mr. FENWICK having expressed satisfaction with the statement of the right hon. Gentleman,

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. REGINALD McKENNA (Monmouth, N.) moved an Amendment providing that where any weekly payment had been continued for not less than twelve months "and the injured workman is not wholly incapacitated for work," the liability may be redeemed by payment of a lump sum. With reference to the assurance which the Colonial Secretary had just given, he asked the right hon. Gentleman whether this form of words was not exactly the kind of concession which he might reasonably make to Members on the Opposition side. The effect of the words would be to assure to every workman who was totally incapacitated for every kind of work, so long as the incapacity lasted, a weekly pension. A lump sum for such a man was perfectly useless. In these exceptional cases an immense hardship would be inflicted on injured workmen if they were not provided with a weekly payment instead of a lump sum.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL thought that from the workman's point of view this Amendment would be inadvisable. If this Amendment were adopted, howevery much the injured workman might wish to obtain £200 wherewith to set up his wife in business, the arbitrator would be absolutely debarred from hearing the application.

*SIR C. DILKE said he felt strongly on this point, and he did not think that the answer of the Attorney General met the necessities of the case. This matter was dealt with here as though it was a new subject; but it had been already thrashed out in every country in the world, and it had been settled in the way here suggested. Monstrous injustice would be done, and frightful hardships would ensue if the matter was not settled in the way suggested by the Amendment. He knew that there was a desire to hurry the Bill through that evening, but the more it was hoped that this Bill would be extended and applied to other trades the more the House ought now to settle these questions in the way indicated.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN said there was no desire to hurry this Bill through, if by so doing they would commit what the right hon. Gentleman called a monstrous injustice and a frightful hardship. He called that a monstrous misuse of language, and a frightful abuse of invective. [*Laughter.*] What was this monstrous abuse? The Government were going to give the injured workman compensation which he had never received before. It was true that that compensation might not be in a particular and very exceptional case as much as they should like to see it; but whatever it was it was all in addition to what he had now. The House was not dealing here with absolute rights; it was dealing with questions of expediency and humanity; and the Government thought on both grounds it was desirable to give injured persons compensation to which they had no legal right or moral right at present. The House had made a great advance in reference to this particular point which had been fully discussed in Committee. A compromise was arrived at which, on the whole, was fairly satisfactory, and it was not possible now to review the whole matter, because if it was to be reviewed from one point of view it must be reviewed from the other as well. The Government must, therefore, resist any changes in the clause.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendments made: In Sub-section (12), after the word "application," insert the words "by or on behalf."

After the word "settled," insert "in default of agreement."—*(Sir Matthew White Ridley.)*

MR. E. H. PICKERSGILL (Bethnal Green, S.W.) moved in Sub-section (12) to omit the words—

"but not exceeding three hundred and twelve times the weekly payment payable at the date of the application."

Personally he was opposed to commutation, especially to unfair and unequal commutation. The words he proposed to omit were inconsistent with the idea of commutation. A man incapacitated for work might live for many years, and if he was only to receive six years' allowance they were practically depriving him of a very great part of that compensation which by the previous position of the Bill the House had declared to be due to him. The arbitrator should be left to fix the amount without any limit, to decide in each case what should be the fair capital value of the allowance. This proviso was entirely in the interests of the employer. If they had a maximum limit surely they ought to have a minimum limit; but there was no minimum limit in this Bill. He objected to the proviso as unfair, as unilateral, and as drawn entirely in the interests of the employer, because there was no corresponding limit which might operate in the interests of the workmen. The proviso would operate most harshly in the very cases which appealed most strongly to their sympathies, and which had, he thought, the greatest claim—the case that was, where a man's life was completely wrecked and where he would never again be capable of any work at all. In the case of that man, what an absurd thing it would be to give a sum which would not produce anything like the equivalent of the allowance which in a previous part of the Bill they declared to be suitable in such a case. If these words were allowed to remain the result would inevitably be that at the end of seven years a man would be left absolutely without resources.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL said the hon. and learned Gentleman had raised again a question that had been discussed many times that evening and many times previously. It was perfectly true that, in one sense, this deprived the workman of what he might call, in an exceptional case, the full value of the weekly payments for his life. But to say that it was unilateral seemed to him to disregard the terms of the clause. The majority of the House had decided that commutation was desirable, and it was pointed out in the course of the discussion that unless there was some limit insurance would be more difficult, and that it was very much to the interest of the workman that he should be able to get his commutation at once, and know how much it was going to be. While a great boon was given to the workman, far more than had ever been proposed by any other system of legislation in connection with this subject of compensation for accidents, it was felt it was quite right to have a limit. It would be quite impossible to take an exceptional case of weekly payments and say there should be no limit. The result of accepting the hon. and learned Member's suggestion would be to leave the amount of commutation wholly at large, and to deprive one side to this compromise of whatever justice or advantage they might think had been given to them by the compromise having been accepted in this form. It was perfectly obvious that the Government could not accept this Amendment, which would be, in his opinion, not to keep faith with, at any rate, one set of the parties by whom this clause was agreed to in the shape it now stood.

*SIR C. DILKE asked if the Attorney General would consider the bearing of Clause 6 of the Bill upon this Amendment. The Government spoke as though all the proposals which were being made to the House by these words were proposals to give the workmen something which they had never had before. He ventured to say that the calculations he had seen showed that five-sixths of what the Government workmen got now would be taken away from them. If they looked at Clause 6 they would find that the Treasury took power to modify the warrants made under the Superannuation Act. Under these warrants at the present time, he ventured to assert, the men, in some cases, would get five or six times as much as under the commutation proposals of the Bill.

*MR. J. WILSON (Durham, Mid) said it had been made clear by the hon. Member for Bethnal Green that if this maximum sum were left in, the workman might be left without assistance in the most dire and necessitous hour, and when he most required such help as this Bill might give him. There were a number of workmen who would be injured but who, owing to their provident habits, had saved some little capital, would not feel very much the need of this Bill in the first year they were out; but after they had been out a year, there came up an arbitration case and there was a sum fixed which these men must take as commutation. Then there came an hour when he needed support most, and when, his own capital having gone, he found the support of this Bill refused to him. If the Government desired to make this Bill all round as acceptable as it was when it was brought in, they would remove the limit, and invest the arbitrator with a discretion to give such a sum as he thought would meet the necessities of the case. He thought that the Attorney General ought to tell them why the Government had fixed this arbitrary period of six years, and by what mode of reasoning they had arrived at this sum.

*MR. BAINBRIDGE was anxious to say a word in the interests of the working man. It was to the interest of the workman to know that an employer had some wool on his back, and the only way to assure that was to enable the employer to insure against the burdens of this Bill. He had taken pains to inquire from the insurance company with whom he had insured since 1880 as to whether they would, without a clause of this sort, give an assurance against the burdens of this Bill, and he was informed that there would be so much uncertainty as to the consequences of the Act that they would absolutely decline to give that assurance unless this limit was introduced.

*Mr. McKENNA would submit to the Attorney General a direct case—that of a lad earning 10s. a week, who was injured by the careless act of an employer or some person for whose actions the employer was responsible. In such a case as that, the lad, after this Bill became law, could not proceed under the Employers' Liability Act. His remedy would be solely under this Bill, and his remedy under this clause would amount to three and a half years' wages. That was to say that a lad who was injured and totally incapacitated for life from doing any work whatever, would receive under this Bill the maximum compensation of £91. If this Bill did not pass into law, such a lad would be entitled to go before a jury and to receive an amount of compensation which he submitted would be vastly more than such a sum as £91. The House by this paragraph in the schedule, and by a sub-clause of Clause 1, would be actually taking away from the workman a remedy he already possessed, and would be limiting the rights of a man who was totally incapacitated to the paltry sum—in the case he had named—of £91.

Mr. STUART-WORTLEY said he did not understand that the House was taking away any man's common-law rights.

*Mr. McKENNA : Yes, it is.

Mr. STUART-WORTLEY did not understand anything of the kind. He did not believe any jury would ever give such sums as the compensation that would be obtained under the present Bill, which went transcendently beyond anything contained in the pedantic proposals previously laid before the House for the solution of the employer's liability question.

Mr. W. ABRAHAM (Glamorgan, Rhondda) said they had been led to believe that under this Bill the workman was to receive something he never could

receive before. ["Hear, hear!"] It was perfectly true also that some of the things the workman was entitled to before would be taken away. This Bill, they were told, was an experimental Bill. Certainly, the House must allow that the Government must have well thought out this matter before they made their original proposals. But since then it appeared to him that strong influences had made them change considerably their original views. Allow him to remind the House that he was one of the supporters of the Bill, and he was one of the men who were grateful for it. He was entitled, therefore, to say this, that they were justified in looking to the Government to fulfil their first intentions. ["Hear hear!"] Now if this Amendment was to be rejected, the permanency of the Bill was totally done away with, it would be a temporary relief Bill. The rejection of the Amendment would place hundreds of workmen in this position, that although they might be permanently injured not one of them would be entitled to a permanent compensation. Permanent compensation would be limited in some of the most extreme cases, and where the money was most needed. ["Hear, hear!"] He was sorry that after the Government had gone so far, and raised the expectations of the workmen as they had done, they should do anything to disappoint those expectations. They had laid down a new foundation, as it were, in the legislation of this country, and he was sorry they did not adhere to it. It was comforting, indeed, that the compromise they were asked to make was not a compromise in which he and those whom he represented had any part. It was a compromise between the Government and some other people who were not representing the workmen of this country—a compromise that was helping to dwindle away the rights which thousands of workmen were led to expect after the promises made by Government when laying down the lines of the Bill. He did not suppose they had now any hope of carrying the Amendment; but the Government would pardon him for saying that their credit with the British nation would stand much better if they had stood to their original Bill and kept to the principle of permanent compensation instead of allowing it to be dwindled away into a temporary relief Bill.

MR. PARKER SMITH said he did not at all wonder that cases of permanent disability raised the acute sympathy of the hon. Member for Rhondda. But after all they must look at the matter from both sides—from the side of the man who was hurt and from that of the man who had got to pay. If injury came to a man through the personal negligence or culpability of the employer, then of course the rights of the man were not limited at all by the section, for he still had every right which a jury at common law would give him. The cases they were dealing with were those in which the accident had happened in the course of work, with no personal fault of the employer at all. Surely in such cases it was an entirely unreasonable penalty to put on the employer such a liability as, for instance, in the melancholy case quoted by the hon. Member for Durham when he spoke of a man who had been permanently incapacitated for 25 years. Surely to put on the employer the liability to pay half-wages for 25 years to a man who had the misfortune to be hurt by no kind of fault on the part of an employer was going entirely beyond the bounds of justice. They were giving in such cases a very great advantage to the workman. They were giving him in cases where at present he got nothing at all, at least 3½ years' half-pay, surely that was ample under the circumstances.

MR. D. F. GODDARD (Ipswich) fully agreed that in this Bill the Government were giving the working men advantages they never enjoyed before. But, after all, that was not the point at issue. The point was, as it seemed to him, that the restriction put upon commutation was distinctly against the idea of the Bill from the first so far as he had understood it. The idea of the Bill had been that a man who had been injured in his employment was to be adequately compensated for that accident. In the original scheme of the Government there was no clause like this at all. There was no question of the commutation of the payment to a man; but as had been already stated, this was arrived at by some kind of compromise—he did not exactly know between whom, but there was a compromise that there should be the possibility of paying down the compensation in a lump sum rather than by continuous weekly payments. But he ventured to say that there was no compromise on the question of a limit to the commutation. As far as he could understand, that limit had been put in without any adequate reason, and certainly without any fair explanation to the House as to why it was fixed at 312 weeks. ["Hear, hear!"] He felt strongly that to limit the commutation in this way would be a real injustice to the men. Take the case of a man who by an accident had been rendered blind. He would never be able to work any more so as to earn his living. He asked any reasonable man, would it be fair compensation to that poor blind man if he got seven years' compensation? What was to happen to him at the end of seven years, except to fall back on the rates and perhaps to go into a workhouse. If there was to be any limitation at all, six years after one year of weekly payments was far too small. But he felt that it was wrong to set up any limitation of this sort. They had established a court of arbitration—let them have confidence in the arbitrator. The working men had already expressed their willingness to trust to arbitration, and he begged the Government not to disfigure their Bill which offered such a great boon to the workmen, by continuing the words whose rejection had been moved.

MR. HUDSON KEARLEY (Devonport) understood that the Government had justified this provision, because they were giving something that was quite new to the working men of this country. Well, that no doubt was perfectly true as regarded workpeople outside their own employment. [AN HON. MEMBER: "Not all!"] Not all probably, but most. But he wanted to know how the Government proposed to apply this to their own workpeople. Under the sixth clause Crown employés were entitled to the benefit of the Bill. At the same time there was a reference in the clause to the fact that there existed a warrant under which Government employés were entitled in the event of permanent disablement to a certain amount of compensation. He would endeavour to point out what the effect of this sub-section would be if applied to men in the permanent employment of the Admiralty or the War Department.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: I suppose the hon. Member assumes that there will be no scheme for men under the Government?

MR. KEARLEY said he assumed nothing. He should be glad to be told what the scheme was; but he was entitled to look at the case in the absence of a scheme and see how it would apply. Under the warrant, a Crown workman, if permanently incapacitated, became entitled to two-fifths of his weekly wages. If Government employés were still going to be treated on that basis he had not much to say. ["Hear, hear!"] But this was the occasion to ask for an assurance. He only knew this—that if the Government took advantage of this provision the workmen in their employment would fare very badly in future as compared with the present. The Attorney General seemed to think the case was hardly capable of being discussed at all. Here was the warrant, and here was the provision the Government were making for the workmen of other people. Now what would happen if Government employés were treated in the same way as those in private employment? A Government employé in receipt of £1 a week would get now, if totally disabled, a pension of 8s. a week, but under the Bill he would get a capital sum of £156, which, if invested at 3 per cent., would only bring him in 1s. 9d. a week. In his constituency the Admiralty employed about 22,000, and therefore he was anxious to know whether the Government proposed to make any modification in the warrant.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Question!

MR. KEARLEY said that to him and his constituents this was a most important question. What he asked was, "Did the Government intend to modify the warrant so far as regarded their own employés, or was the warrant to stand good?"

MR. GIBSON BOWLES said that the hon. Member for Devonport, in common with many other hon. Gentlemen, seemed to imagine that this Bill was intended to provide for every workman large sums of money which he might invest in Consols and live happily for the rest of his life. [*A laugh.*] The Bill did not offer to the workman anything as an act of justice, but it offered him something on the ground of pure generosity. [*Cries of* "No, no!" *and cheers.*] Yes; the accident might have arisen through an earthquake, and still the employer was liable. In a case like that, where the accident fell equally on the employer and employed, justice demanded that the workmen should bear half the loss. But justice was put aside, and it was now a case of generosity. The Government felt, however, that there must be a limit to the generosity, especially as in the generosity the money of the employer was used. He imagined no one desired to absolutely ruin the employer and stop all employment. The only way to avoid that was to leave the employer some chance of insuring against the new risks about to be put upon him, and the only possibility of doing that was to put some check upon the amount that the employer had to pay under the Bill. In his opinion the limit of seven years was a very fair one. He was surprised hon. Gentlemen opposite complained. He was especially surprised that the representatives of dockyard constituencies should complain. The cannibals in the dockyards never ceased their whimpering. They had been treated by successive Governments with the utmost generosity; they were not entitled to a farthing more than they had got, and he hoped to goodness this Government would not give them another farthing. [*Laughter and cheers.*]

SIR J. BRUNNER (Cheshire, Northwich) said it seemed to him that his right hon. Friend the Member for the Forest of Dean was quite right when he pointed out that the particular words which it was now proposed to omit had an effect upon Clause 6 as amended in Committee. He gathered from the gestures of the Attorney General while the hon. Member for Devonport was speaking, that it was not intended to diminish any of the advantages which workmen employed by the Government now had. If the Attorney General would give an assurance in words as well as in gestures it would be on record, and, he believed, the scruples of the hon. Member for Devonport would be satisfied.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL said he could only speak with the indulgence of the House. He certainly did think that the observations of the hon. Member for Devonport were scarcely germane, but he had certainly no hesitation in answering the question. It had already been before him as a Law Officer of the Crown whether or not the warrant to which the hon. Member for Devonport had referred would be a scheme under the Act. There was not the slightest intention to deprive Government workmen of a single sixpence, on the contrary, the intention was to turn the warrant into a scheme under the Act so that its advantages would be secured to those employés.

SIR J. BRUNNER said the statement of the hon. Member for Devonport was that Government servants were now entitled to much more than the Bill would give them. The assurance he asked for was that nothing would be taken from them.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: I cannot say more than I have said.

*MR. LIONEL HOLLAND (Tower Hamlets, Bow and Bromley) pointed out that the six years' limit might be fair in the majority of cases, but it was admitted by the terms of the clause that it would not be universally fair, that there might be cases in which the purchase value of six years would be inequitable, and, therefore, the clause proposed that the arbitrator should be empowered to revise the limit. But he was only able to revise it to the detriment of the workman. [*Opposition cheers*]. He was to have unlimited power to cut down the period from 312 payments to ten and give a merely nominal sum, a peppercorn compensation, for the injuries a workman had received. It required some ingenuity to conceive a case in which it would be fair to give a workman less than six years' present money value of his annuity. It was perfectly clear that in 99 cases out of 100, a workman must be a loser from a pecuniary point of view, though they might be the gainers in other ways under the clause. It would be only in the case of very old men that the annuity would not be worth more than six years money value. In this connection he thought the arbitrator should have wider discretion to deal with special cases of hardship. It was obvious that there were cases in which six years' compensation would be admitted theoretically by everybody in that House to be too low. Take the case of a youth of 14 or 15. His injuries might unfit him for the rest of his life, and yet the utmost the arbitrator could give him was £39. There were bound to be cases of this kind, where the loss would be far greater than it would be to a man of mature age. Apart from this clause the youth was to receive compensation on the basis of the wages he was earning. It might be difficult to remove this inequality, but it was not impossible to prevent the further inequality that the annuity of a youth would be commuted on the same basis of years' purchase as a man of 60 or 70. In any case the employer must be a gainer by a limit being placed on the discretion of the arbitrator.

The House divided:—Ayes, 203; Noes, 89.—(Division List, No. 289.)

MR. J. W. WILSON (Worcestershire, N.) moved to omit from Section (12) the words,—

"but not exceeding three hundred and twelve times the weekly payment payable at the date of the application,"

and to insert,—

"such lump sum, together with the weekly payments already made, shall not exceed three hundred and sixty-four times the weekly payment originally fixed."

He pointed out that in many cases the weekly payments would be of more use than a lump sum. This clause gave a distinct advantage to the employer to apply for commutation. He thought it was a pity to offer a premium on commuting, and he would take away the inducement to commute.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL pointed out that by Sub-section (11) of the Schedule the amount of the weekly payment might be increased as well as diminished. The Amendment, in their judgment, would go directly against the compromising arrangement, and they could not consent to it.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY moved to insert, at the end of Sub-section (12), the words,—

"and such lump sum may be ordered by the committee or arbitrator to be invested as abovementioned."

MR. PARKER SMITH moved as an Amendment to the Amendment to insert the words "or otherwise applied" after the word "invested."

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL said there was no objection to that.

Amendment, as amended, agreed to.

MR. J. WILSON (Falkirk Burghs) moved to add at the end of Sub-section (12) the words,—

"or by the purchase by the employer for the workman of an annuity or annuities certified in writing by the County Court Judge to be of at least equivalent value."

As far as he could see, the Bill only gave power to invest in the Post Office, and he supposed if the money could be lodged there it could also be withdrawn.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL said if these words had any meaning it was that the employer was to purchase an annuity which was equivalent to the amount of the weekly payment. Of course that would be commutation.

Amendment negatived.

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY moved to omit Sub-section (14).

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment made: To add at the end of the Schedule,—

"where compensation under this Act is assured by a friendly society, and the scheme of such society has been certified under this Act, the provisions of section sixteen and section forty-one of the Friendly Societies Act 1896 shall not apply to such society in respect of such scheme."—(*Sir Matthew White Ridley.*)

Amendment made: At the end of Sub-section (14), to insert, "and the expression 'Registrar of the County Court' means sheriff of the county."—(*Mr. Ure.*)

SECOND SCHEDULE.

ARBITRATION.

The following provisions shall apply for settling any matter which under this Act is to be settled by arbitration:—

(1.) If any committee, representative of an employer and his workmen exists with power to settle matters under this Act in the case of the employer and workmen, the matter shall, unless either party objects, by notice in writing sent to the other party before the committee meet to consider the matter, be settled by the arbitration of such committee, or be referred by them in their discretion to an arbitrator.

(2.) If either party so objects, or there is no such committee, the matter shall be settled by a single arbitrator or conciliation board agreed on by the parties, or in the absence of agreement, by the County Court Judge, or if in England the Lord Chancellor certifies that under the circumstances of the particular district it is not convenient that the County Court Judge should be called upon to act as arbitrator, by a single arbitrator appointed by such County Court Judge.

(3.) In cases in which the County Court Judge or an arbitrator appointed by him is the arbitrator, the workman or his representative may deliver to the Registrar of the County Court of the district in which he resides a statement of the nature of his claim, with his name and address and that of the employer, and it shall be the duty of the Registrar to give notice of the said claim to the employer, and to make the necessary arrangements for the arbitration, and give notice thereof to both parties, and all such claims may be amended by the arbitrator on such terms as to adjournment or otherwise as he thinks just, in order that the questions in dispute may be disposed of.

(4.) Any arbitrator other than the County Court Judge shall be paid out of moneys to be provided by Parliament in accordance with regulations to be made by the Treasury.

(5.) The Arbitration Act 1889 shall not apply to any arbitration under this Act; but an arbitrator may, if he thinks fit, submit any question of law for the decision of the County Court Judge, and the decision of the Judge on any question of law, either on such submission, or in any case where he himself acts as arbitrator under this Act, shall, subject to a right of appeal in every such case by any party to Her Majesty's Court of Appeal, be final and the County Court Judge, or the arbitrator appointed by him, shall, when sitting as arbitrator, have the same powers of procuring the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents as if the claim for compensation had been made by plaint in the County Court.

(6.) In any proceedings under this Act no party or other person shall appear or be attended by counsel or solicitor except by the leave of the court or arbitrator, or on any appeal to the Court of Appeal.

(7.) The cost of the arbitration shall be in the discretion of the arbitrator.

(8.) Where the amount of compensation under this Act shall have been ascertained, or any weekly payments varied, or any other matter decided, under this Act, either by a committee or by an arbitrator or by agreement, a memorandum thereof shall be sent by the said committee or arbitrator, or by any party interested, to the Registrar of the County Court for the district in which any person entitled to such compensation resides, who shall, on being satisfied as to its genuineness, record such memorandum in a special register without charge, and thereupon the said memorandum shall for all purposes be enforceable as a County Court judgment. Provided that the County Court Judge may at any time rectify such register.

(9.) The duty of a County Court Judge under this Act shall, subject to rules of court, be part of the duties of the County Court, and the officers of the court shall act accordingly.

(10.) Any sum awarded as compensation shall be paid on the receipt of the person entitled, and his solicitor or agent shall not be entitled to recover from him, or to claim a lien on the amount recovered for, any costs except such as have been awarded by the arbitrator.

(11.) The Secretary of State, at the request of any committee, judge, or other arbitrator, shall appoint a legally qualified medical practitioner to report on any matter which seems material to any question arising in the arbitration; and the expense of any such medical practitioner shall, subject to Treasury regulations, be paid out of moneys to be provided by Parliament.

(12.) In the application of this schedule to Scotland "sheriff" shall be substituted for "County Court Judge," "Sheriff Court" for "County Court," and "act of sederunt" for "rules of court." Any award or ageement as to compensation under this Act may be recorded in the books of council and session or sheriff court books, and shall be enforceable in like manner as a recorded decree arbitral. Any application to the Sheriff as arbitrator shall be heard, tried, and determined summarily in the manner provided by the fifty-second section of the Sheriff Courts (Scotland) Act 1876, subject to the declaration that it shall be competent to either party to require the Sheriff to state a case on any question of law determined by him, and his decision thereon in such case may be submitted to either division of the Court of Session, who, if they consider that the point involved is of general importance, may hear and determine the same finally, and remit to the Sheriff with instructions as to the judgment to be pronounced.

(13.) In the application of this schedule to Ireland the expression "County Court Judge" shall include the Recorder of any city or town.

MR. LAWSON WALTON (Leeds, S.) said he proposed to call attention to the legal dangers which awaited the unwary practitioners in the various processes prescribed by the second schedule. In the first place the heading "arbitration" was not merely superfluous but dangerous, and he moved to omit. Lawyers would recognise that some of the processes set forth in the schedule were not correctly described as "arbitration," some being more than arbitration and some being less. The danger was that in cases of disputes settled in an informal manner by a trade committee—no witnesses being examined and no oaths being administered—it might be argued before the Courts that as the settlement did not comply with the ordinary forms of arbitration, it was invalid, and should therefore be set aside. He therefore proposed that the heading "arbitration" should be struck out.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL said the word "arbitration" was not operative, but was merely descriptive, and if it should turn out not to properly describe the schedule, it could be changed in another place.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

MR. WALTON moved to omit the words "by arbitration" from the opening sentence of the schedule:—

"The following provisions shall apply for settling any matter which, under this Act, is to be settled by arbitration."

on the ground that as some of the processes prescribed by the schedule were not accurately described as arbitration, the use of the word "arbitration" was dangerous to the stability of the settlement.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL said the Government did not wish to strike out the words. It was possible that simple procedure might be adopted, but it was necessary that the decision come to should be binding on the workman. If the workman decided to be dealt with by a member of the Committee, and did not demand more formal arbitration, the decision of the member of the Committee would be binding.

MR. BRYNMOR JONES (Swansea Boroughs) rose to support the Amendment, when—

MR. GRANT LAWSON (York, N.R., Thirsk), on a point of order, said the Amendment was contrary to what had already been decided by the House that "the matter shall be settled by arbitration in accordance with the Schedule of the Act."

*MR. SPEAKER ruled the Amendment out of order.

Amendments made: Sub-section (1) after "employer," insert "or employers," after "and his," insert "or theirs."—(*Colonel Denny.*)

*SIR C. DILKE moved, in Sub-section (1), after the word "party," to insert the words "within a fortnight from the occurrence of the accident, or at any later time."

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL said he did not object at all to the spirit of the Amendment, but he suggested that it should read "Unless either party within a fortnight of the occurrence of the accident objects." "And later time" would complicate matters. The Amendment would be more appropriate in a subsequent line of the sub-section.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*SIR C. DILKE moved to insert, after the word "party," the words "within a fortnight of the occurrence of the accident."

MR. PARKER SMITH did not quite understand how this would come in.

MR. McKENNA said that the workman would be allowed a fortnight after the accident in which to object to the Committee.

MR. GRANT LAWSON pointed out that the Bill did not refer to accidents which did not injure a man for more than a fortnight.

MR. CRIPPS suggested the words "within a fortnight or any later time."

*SIR C. DILKE said that was practically the Amendment on the Paper. He would ask leave to withdraw this Amendment in order to move the words on the Paper.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*SIR C. DILKE moved, after the word "party," to insert the words "within a fortnight from the occurrence of the accident, or at any later time."

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL said he had every desire to meet the right hon. Baronet, but he thought that the words "within a fortnight" were misleading. He thought the best way would be to require notice in writing to be sent to the other party with or on receipt of the claim.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*SIR C. DILKE moved, in Sub-section (2), after the word "Committee," to insert the words—

"or the committee fail to settle the matter within three months from the occurrence of the accident, or, in case of death, from the time of death."

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL suggested the substitution of the words "within three months of the date of the claim," for "within three months of the occurrence of the accident."

MR. PARKER SMITH thought this was a very summary way of taking things out of the hands of the Committee.

Amendment made: In Sub-section (2), to leave out "or Conciliation Board."

Leave out—

"or if in England the Lord Chancellor certifies that, under the circumstances of the particular district, it is not convenient that the County Court Judge should be called upon to act as arbitrator, by a single arbitrator appointed by such County Court Judge,"

and insert—

"of the district in which the accident occurred according to the procedure prescribed by rules of court."

In Sub-section (3) leave out "his representative," and insert "some person on his behalf."—(*Attorney General.*)

MR. WALTON moved, at the end of Sub-section (3), to insert—

"In any claim under this Act in which the claimant charges that the employer or the person for whom he is responsible has been guilty of personal negligence or of some wilful act causing the injury of which he complains, the County Court Judge may, in his discretion, and shall in all cases, at the request of either party, appoint two assessors to sit with him or with the arbitrator whom he may appoint to determine such claim, or he may, if he thinks proper, in accordance with rules of court to be framed for the purpose, transfer the said claim to be tried by a Judge and special jury of the High Court."

The object of the Amendment, he explained, was first of all to give to persons who were charged with offences under the common law as it now stood, by the procedure of this Act, the same rights which they at present possessed, and also to provide for greater flexibility and greater efficiency on the part of the tribunal which this legislation constituted. As the Bill stood the workman had his option in the case in which he charged personal negligence. He might proceed by action at common law or by claim under this Act. If he proceeded by action at common law the employer who was charged with personal negligence, or the manager of his undertaking who had a similar charge against him, had access to trial by jury or by a Judge of the High Court, or a trial before all the supreme tribunals of the country. But if the workman chose to proceed by means of a claim under this Act, although he was charging common law liability, he might force the defendant to trial before a County Court Judge or his nominee. The County Court might know nothing of the subject matter. The investigation might involve an intricate inquiry into the system of management of the work, and this gentleman be called upon without any professional assistance to determine a question of very great nicety. To meet that emergency he proposed that it should be the duty of the County Court Judge, at the expense of either party, to appoint assessors, who should have the requisite technical knowledge, to assist him in that investigation. He submitted that no tribunal would be efficient where it consisted of a single individual unacquainted with the subject-matter which the investigation raised. There was another class of cases in which a wilful charge of misconduct or negligence was made against an employer of labour or his principal official, which might be cases of the utmost gravity. It was possible that in such an inquiry the whole professional career of the defendant might be at stake, and the County Court Judge might properly shrink from undertaking an investigation with such responsibility without the assistance of a jury. He proposed in such a case that the County Court Judge might, if he thought it proper and entirely at his discretion, make arrangements to give the defendant an opportunity of appealing to the opinion of his fellows in accordance with the well recognised institutions of the country. In both these cases some provision should be made to relieve the defendant from the difficulty in which he was placed under the existing law, either in accordance with the terms of this Amendment or some similar machinery. He begged to move the Amendment.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL was sorry to find himself opposed to his hon. and learned Friend, but the only effect of the Amendment would be to enormously and unnecessarily increase the expenses of these cases. If a workman desired to charge the master, it was quite true he could take two proceedings, but if he took proceedings under the Act, he must, of course, abandon the case of personal negligence and wilful misconduct. Therefore it was only in cases in which he wished to allege personal negligence or wilful misconduct that he would take proceedings at law. These proceedings at the present time could be brought either in the County Court or in the High Court subject to the ordinary rules. Why in this Bill, which was to provide for compensation, leaving the remedy at common law where it was, they should go out of their way to make the procedure more complicated and expensive, he could not understand. He could not assent to an Amendment which would have a direct invitation to increased expenses, and render more complicated the procedure in those cases which workmen had to bring against their masters.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendments made: In Sub-section (4) leave out "other man," and insert "appointed by." In Sub-section (5) leave out the words,—

"subject to a right of appeal in every such case by any party to Her Majesty's Court of Appeal,"

and insert,—

"unless within the time and in accordance with the conditions prescribed by rules of court either party appeals to the Court of Appeal."—(*The Attorney General.*)

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL moved to leave out Sub-section (6.) He said he had had a great many representations made on behalf of workmen and by County Court Judges of great experience against the insertion of this sub-section, and he was able to supplement what they said by his own personal experience.

If a man were not allowed to go to a solicitor, but was driven to consult somebody else, then he would probably fall into the hands of the worst and most grasping set of men whom he knew in connection with such matters. In his younger, or rather in his earlier days, he had a good deal of experience of such men; clerks who had been struck off the rolls, men who had been dismissed by their employers, and he could say there were no worse cases of robbery of the working classes than had arisen out of the offer of such men to get up cases either on commission or for a lump sum, the Court having no control over such men, and no means of checking their costs. More than one County Court Judge had pointed out the better way would be to allow solicitors to appear but to control them in matters of costs by rules of court or other means to see that only moderate costs were charged. If this paragraph were allowed to stand, in the event of any great accident occurring, he feared that the workmen would get into the hands of the lowest class of so-called legal advisers that existed.

*SIR C. DILKE said the present proposal was practically the omission of the paragraph, which was put in after a Debate raised by the hon. Member for Northampton, who proposed very much the same as the words now included. The actual words were put in on the Motion of the Secretary for the Colonies with the general assent of the whole of the Committee. He thought that nothing that the Attorney General had said interfered at all with the judgment the Committee had very wisely exercised. He did not believe that the working classes would fall into the hands of such people as had been described except in rare and exceptional cases, and they would gain by the exclusion of the legal profession in proceedings before the arbitrator; it would be a very great gain indeed. The Amendment moved in Committee followed the lines of the procedure in the Registration Courts, and the exclusion of learned counsel from the Registration Courts worked very well indeed.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL said there might be exceptional cases and what was wanted was proper advice from a solicitor.

*SIR C. DILKE asked were the Government willing to confine their proposal to taking out counsel?

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: No.

*SIR C. DILKE said that the Government wished to go back entirely on the settlement which excluded both solicitors and counsel. The workman should be represented either personally or by his Trades Union secretary, just the representation the working classes had upon inquests out of the evidence at which proceedings in certain cases were decided at the present time. At an inquest a man represented himself, or in the case where he was a member of an organised trade he was admirably represented by the Trades Union secretary, while, on the other hand, the master in large trades was represented by the manager, or mining agent, or some person in a similar position. He believed it was the original intention of the Government that these proceedings should not be litigation, but really arbitration on the merits of the case, and he was sure that the working classes would gain more by the original Amendment than they would by the proposal supposed to be made in their interest by the hon. and learned Gentleman.

MR. HENRY BROADHURST said it was the Secretary of State for the Colonies who added this paragraph, of which the Committee very generally approved. The House should save the Attorney General from the extreme pressure to which he might have been subjected by the legal trades union in the interests of lucrative employment.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: Nothing of the kind.

MR. BROADHURST said it could easily be understood that they could bring pressure—he did not say they had.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: I think it is only right that I should say that no communication has been made to me on behalf of the Bar, and I think my word ought to be taken when I say that County Court Judges who know the working of cases under the Employers' Liability Act have pointed out this to me. ["Hear, hear!"]

MR. BROADHURST assured the Attorney General that he was always ready to accept his word. He only said that one could easily understand that great pressure might have been brought to bear in connection with this paragraph.

This was a considerable concession to the laity in Committee, and it was distinctly understood that if a man wished for a legal representative in his case he could obtain this assistance by leave of the arbitrator. There were thousands of cases in which the representative of a trade union could serve his client as well as the legal profession; and, therefore, he hoped that the Colonial Secretary would stand by the clause.

MR. ABEL THOMAS (Carmarthen, E.) hoped that the Government would stand by the Amendment. He had a large experience in county courts, and he had seen many cases where the Judge had been helped by the advice given to him by solicitors and counsel. When a Trade Union secretary conducted a case in Court, he very often could not render this assistance, and again and again he had found that Trade Union secretaries were most anxious to employ either solicitor or counsel. In hundreds of cases which would come before the arbitrator or the County Court Judge, the question would simply be the measure of damages, and he was certain that neither employers or workmen would be foolish enough to employ barristers or solicitors for cases of that kind. They would employ solicitors and counsel when there was some real or fancied difficulty in the law. He hoped, therefore, that the Government would adhere to the Amendment.

MR. PHILIP STANHOPE (Burnley), on the other hand, hoped that the House would take a different view, and that it would discourage the intervention of the legal profession in these affairs and would leave them to be settled by the intervention of the Trade Union secretary. There was in the House of Commons an enormous legal element, an element so large as to make it in some respects an unpopular Assembly. [*Cries of* "Oh, oh!" *and ironical cheers.*] It was one of the misfortunes of the House of Commons that it was held up to popular criticism as being largely composed of lawyers who entered it in order to advance their own professional prospects. [*Cries of* "Oh, oh!"] One thing the House ought to avoid, therefore, was the imputation that it yielded to the clamour of an interested class. He hoped that the Colonial Secretary would take a wider view of this question, and would stand firm by the position he assumed in Committee.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN said he had not heard those charges against the House of Commons which the hon. Member appeared to have met with in his peregrinations throughout the country. [*Laughter.*] If, however, such a charge had been brought to his notice, he should say that whatever might be the case as to the House of Commons, in the other democratic Assemblies, such as the Legislatures of the United States, and our self-governing colonies, the number of lawyers was very much greater in proportion than it was here. Coming to the point before the House, he was not ashamed to say that he had changed his mind. He had not changed his mind as to the object, but as to the method. The object was to reduce costs, and he was one of those who, perhaps rather hastily, thought that might be accomplished by excluding the legal profession. He had, however come to the conclusion that his hon. and learned Friend the Attorney General was right, and that that might involve very great hardship on the working classes in many cases, and would prevent them from having the best possible assistance and throw them into the hands of the very people against whom it was most desirable to protect them. But in order to secure what, after all, was the object they had in view, he thought precautions had been taken which would be sufficient. He would point out in the first place that, in the schedule as it stood, it was impossible for any solicitor or agent to recover any costs from the person entitled to compensation except such as had been awarded by the arbitrator. But his right hon. Friend the Home Secretary had another Amendment down on the Paper, under which it was proposed that the costs, whether before an arbitrator or in the County Court, should not exceed the limit prescribed by the rules of the Court, and the intention was to take care that that limit was an extremely moderate one. Under these circumstances and having regard also to the fact that appeals are not likely to be very numerous, he thought they might rest assured that the object the House had in view would be sufficiently secured.

*MR. McKENNA, on a point of order, asked, if this Amendment were carried, whether he should be in order in moving the Amendment standing in his name?

*MR. SPEAKER: The whole of the words will go.

*MR. McKENNA: Shall I be able to move it as a separate Amendment?

*MR. SPEAKER: I think the hon. Member will, but not in the precise words standing on the Paper.

MR. CARVELL WILLIAMS (Notts, Mansfield) said that when the Colonial Secretary stated that the workman might be deprived of the assistance of counsel or solicitor when he perhaps most sorely needed it, he had forgotten that in the latter portion of this paragraph such assistance could be had with the leave of the Court or arbitrator. He thought it might be assumed that if such assistance were of great importance to the workman the Court or arbitrator would be quite willing to grant it.

MR. J. WILSON (Falkirk Burghs), speaking as an employer, expressed great disappointment at the speech of the Colonial Secretary. He had always understood that the whole inducement for employers making such sacrifices as were entailed by this Bill was that there would be no more legal expenses. The right hon. Gentleman said that the old Employers' Liability Bill was a Lawyers' Employment Bill, and that he would take good care that this Bill would not be of that character. Personally, he thought this would be more of a Lawyers' Employment Bill than the old one.

MR. PICKARD asked whether, if this clause were taken out, it would compel a working man in every case to have a solicitor or counsel?

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: Certainly not.

MR. PICKARD: Would it, if it were not in the Bill, debar any workman from being represented by anyone he likes?

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: I am quite willing that a workman should be represented by anyone he likes.

Amendment agreed to.

*MR. McKENNA moved, in Sub-section (6), to insert the words—

"in any proceedings under this Act any party may appear by any person on his behalf."

Mr. McKenna.

The reason he desired to move this Amendment was this. Under the present County Court rules no person might appear except by counsel or solicitor, except by leave of the Court, and as the leave of the Court in the last paragraph had not been considered satisfactory in the case of solicitor or counsel, he submitted it was equally not satisfactory in the case of an injured workman wishing to be represented by a miners' agent or Trades Union secretary. He desired that there should be the same unrestricted right for the workman to employ his own agent as there was now to employ a solicitor or counsel.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL suggested that the words of the hon. Gentleman's Amendment should be preceded by the words, "In any arbitration under this Act."

*MR. McKENNA: I accept that.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL said he had no objection at all to accept the Amendment. He thought it would probably be better to put in the words "duly appointed." There ought to be some safeguard against having people jumping up and saying they were entitled to appear. The Amendment would then read:—

"In any arbitration under this Act any party may appear by any person duly appointed on his behalf."

*MR. McKENNA: I am quite ready to accept those words.

Amendment, as amended, agreed to.

Amendment made: At the end of Sub-section (7) insert:—

"The costs, whether before an arbitrator or in the County Court, shall not exceed the limit prescribed by rules of court."

MR. WALTON moved after the words last added to insert:—

"Rules shall be framed for the regulation of proceedings under this Act by the Lord Chancellor and the Lord Chief Justice of England, assisted by a committee of three County Court Judges to be appointed by them, subject to the sanction and approval of such rules by the Secretary of State for the Home Department."

He said that as far as he could gather from the Amendment on the Paper, he did not see anything as to the constitution of the Committee, or defining the scope within which the rules were to be framed. Unless the Attorney General indicated some mode in which the Committee was to be appointed and what would be the scope of its action, he begged to move the Amendment which stood in his name.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL hoped the hon. Member would not press his Amendment. As a matter of fact the rules would be either the rules of the High Court or those of the County Court, and there were constituted authorities for making such rules.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment made: At end of Sub-section (9) insert:—

"No fee shall be payable by any party in respect of any proceeding under this Act in the County Court prior to the award."

In Sub-section (10) leave out "amount recovered," and insert "said sum awarded."

Leave out "by the arbitrator," and insert "in the arbitration."

In Sub-section (11) leave out the words,

"at the request of any committee, judge, or other arbitrator, shall appoint a legally qualified medical practitioner,"

and insert,

"may appoint legally qualified medical practitioners for the purposes of this Act, and any committee, arbitrator, or judge may, subject to regulations made by the Secretary of State and the Treasury, appoint any such."—(*Sir Matthew White Ridley.*)

MR. SYDNEY GEDGE (Walsall) moved in Sub-section (11) to insert the words "no awards given under this Act shall be liable to stamp duty."

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL said there was no necessity for the Amendment, the award would not require a stamp.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. FENWICK (on behalf of Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON, Dundee) moved at the end of Sub-section (11) to insert:—

"(12) The arbitrator shall state briefly in writing the probable cause of the accident, the nature of the employment in which it took place, and the defects, if any, in the premises, machinery, plant, precautions, or arrangements which, in his opinion, contributed to the accident, and a copy of such statement shall be sent by the arbitrator to the Home Secretary, and a summary of such statement shall be annually published."

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL said that when this Amendment was discussed in Committee it was pointed out that this duty would be quite foreign to the function of the arbitrator. If the Amendment were accepted, the arbitrator would have to conduct large investigations into matters he need not otherwise inquire into.

MR. TOMLINSON said that there was the additional drawback to the adoption of the Amendment that it would necessarily increase the cost of all these proceedings.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendments made: In Sub-section (12), after "this" ["this schedule"] insert "Act and this."—(*Mr. McKillop.*)

After "County Court," insert "'action for 'plaint,' 'sheriff court' for 'registrar of the County Court.'"—(*Mr. Ure.*)

Leave out "recorded," and insert "competently recorded for execution."—(*Mr. J. Wilson, Falkirk Burghs.*)

After "1876," insert,—

"save only that parties may be represented by any person authorised in writing to appear for them, and."—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

After "party," insert the words,—

"within the time and in accordance with the conditions prescribed by Act of Parliament."—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

MR. J. WILSON (Falkirk Burghs) said that his Amendment to insert after "party" "on special cause shown," was one of very considerable importance, and he did not mean to slur it over because they were fast approaching Twelve o'clock. [*Laughter and cheers.*] This part of the schedule was slipped into the Bill by the Lord Advocate upon the last day of the Committee stage, when most of the employers had left Westminster, not expecting that any Amendment of importance would be accepted. [*Interruption.*] He did not intend to sit down, and the longer he was interrupted the longer he would stand in his place. [*Laughter and cries of* "Hear, hear!"] His Amendment simply meant that on special cause being shown, the sheriff might state a case on any question of law determined by him, and his decision in such case might be submitted to either division of the Court of Session. The greatest evil that employers in Scotland had had to submit to was that cases under the Employers' Liability Act of 1880 had been taken direct to the Court of Session. That involved a very large sum of money, and the object was that employers might compromise frivolous cases rather than defend them.

And, it being midnight, further proceeding on consideration, as amended, stood adjourned.

Bill, as amended, to be further considered To-morrow.

SCHOOL BOARDS' EXPENSES BILL.

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

POOR LAW BILL.

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

STIPENDIARY MAGISTRATES' JURISDICTION (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

SUPPLY [9TH JULY].

Report deferred till Monday next.

POST OFFICE CONSOLIDATION BILL [H.L.].

Committee deferred till Monday next.

NAVAL WORKS BILL.

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

MILITARY MANŒUVRES BILL.

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

ISLE OF MAN (CHURCH BUILDING ACTS) BILL [H.L.].

Adjourned Debate on Second Reading [5th July] further adjourned till To-morrow.

FISHERIES ACTS AMENDMENT BILL [H.L.].

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

METROPOLITAN WATER COMPANIES BILL.

Committee deferred till To-morrow.

BICYCLES (IRELAND) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

BURIAL GROUNDS LOANS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Adjourned Debate on Second Reading [11th May] further adjourned till To-morrow.

PUBLIC HEALTH (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Consideration, as amended (by the Standing Committee), deferred till Monday next.

FOREIGN PRISON-MADE GOODS BILL.

Committee deferred till To-morrow.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Committee deferred till To-morrow.

CONGESTED DISTRICTS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Consideration, as amended, deferred till To-morrow.

SUPPLY.

Committee deferred till Wednesday.

WAYS AND MEANS.

Committee deferred till Wednesday.

LOCOMOTIVES ON HIGHWAYS BILL.

Consideration, as amended (by the Standing Committee), deferred till To-morrow.

SUPREME COURT OF JUDICATURE (IRELAND) ACT (1877) AMENDMENT BILL.

Committee deferred till To-morrow.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS (IRELAND) BILL.

Committee deferred till Monday 26th July.

SERVICE FRANCHISE BILL.

Committee deferred till Monday next.

EDUCATIONAL ENDOWMENTS (IRELAND) ACT (1885) AMENDMENT BILL.

Committee deferred till Thursday.

ARCHDEACONRY OF LONDON (ADDITIONAL ENDOWMENTS) BILL.

Considered in Committee; Committee report Progress; to sit again To-morrow.

YORKSHIRE CORONERS BILL.

Considered in Committee.

[MR. GRANT LAWSON in the Chair.]

Clause 1,—

RIDINGS OF YORKSHIRE TO BE SEPARATE COUNTIES IN RESPECT OF THE CORONERS ACTS.

For all the purposes of the Coroners Acts 1844, 1860, 1887, and 1892, the ridings of Yorkshire shall respectively be separate counties, and the county council of each riding shall, to the exclusion of any other authority, be the county authority for all the purposes of those Acts:

Provided that nothing in this section shall affect the alteration in manner provided by law of the district of any coroner which is immediately before the commencement of this Act situate partly in one and partly in another of the ridings.

Clause ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 2,—

JURISDICTION AND REMUNERATION OF CORONERS.

The coroner for such district in any of the ridings as the chairmen for the time being of the county councils of the three ridings, or the majority of them may from time to time determine, shall have and exercise jurisdiction and perform the duties of coroner throughout York Castle deemed to be in all the said ridings, and his remuneration for the performance of such duties shall be fixed, and such remuneration and his disbursements shall be paid by the county council of the riding in which such district is situate.

MR. JOHN HUTTON (York, Richmond) moved the omission of the clause.

Motion agreed to; clause struck out.

Clause 3,—

RIGHTS OF EXISTING COUNTY CORONERS.

Nothing herein contained shall affect the rights, duties, powers, or liabilities of any county coroner holding office at the commencement of this Act.

MR. JOHN HUTTON moved at the end of the clause to add:—

"and any such coroner whose district shall, after the passing of this Act, have become divided into two districts shall for the purposes of section five of the Coroners' Act 1844 be deemed to be resident in each of such districts."

Mr. EUGENE CREAN (Queen's County, Ossory) moved "That the Chairman do report progress, and ask leave to sit again."

Motion to report progress agreed to.

Committee report progress; to sit again To-morrow.

PARISH COUNCILS (SCOTLAND) (CASUAL VACANCIES) BILL.

Considered in Committee, and reported, without Amendment; Read the Third time, and passed.

STEAM ENGINES AND BOILERS (PERSONS IN CHARGE) BILL.

Order for resuming Adjourned Debate on Motion for Committal to Standing Committee on Trade, Etc. [17th February] read, and discharged; Bill withdrawn.

HIGHWAYS BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Monday next.

EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ACT (1880) AMENDMENT BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Thursday.

COUNTY COUNCILS (ADVANCES) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Monday next.

EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ACT (1880) AMENDMENT (No. 2) BILL.

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT (1894) AMENDMENT BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Monday next.

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INCLOSURE ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

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POLICE PENSIONS AND SERVICE BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Wednesday.

POLICE APPOINTMENT AND PROMOTION BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Wednesday.

CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD (IRELAND) (COMPULSORY PURCHASE POWERS) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

LICENSING (SCOTLAND) ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

RAILWAY RETURN TICKETS BILL.

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

PARISH REGISTERS BILL.

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

LICENSING EXEMPTION (HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT) BILL.

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

House Adjourned at a Quarter after Twelve o'Clock.

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(AUTHORISED EDITION).

VOLUME L. FOURTH SERIES.

SIXTH VOLUME OF SESSION 1897.

EXPLANATION OF ABBREVIATIONS.

Bills Read 1^{a}, 1°, 2^{a}, 2°, 3^{a}, 3°. Read the First, Second, or Third Time.
1R., 2R., 3R. Speech delivered on First, Second, or Third Reading.
Adj. Adjourned.

A. Answer.
c. Commons.
Com. Committee.
com. Committed.
Intro. Introduction.
l. Lords.
Obj. Objections.

Obs. Observations.
Pres. Presented.
Q. Question.
Rep. Reported.
R.P. Report Progress.
Reso. Resolutions.

The Subjects of Debate, as far as possible, are classified under General Headings, e.g. :—

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EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
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HOME DEPARTMENT

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LAW AND JUSTICE AND POLICE
LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD
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  - *Brigade of*, *Qs.* Sir A. F. Acland-Hood; *As.* Mr. Brodrick *June* 3, 161
  - *Dragoon (Second)*, *Q.* Mr. J. W. Maclure; *A.* Mr. Brodrick *June* 21, 435
  - *Foot, Recruits*, *Qs.* Mr. J. H. C. Hozier, Dr. Farquharson; *As.* Mr. Brodrick *July* 9, 1466
  - *Grenadier*, *Q.* Mr. J. H. C. Hozier; *A.* Mr. Brodrick *July* 9, 1466
- *Guns, Machine, Royalties*, *Q.* Mr. J. Caldwell; *A.* Mr. Powell-Williams *July* 1, 860. *Q.* Mr. J. G. Weir; *A.* Mr. Powell-Williams *July* 5, 1118
- *Horse and Field Artillery*, *Q.* Sir C. Dilke; *A.* Mr. Brodrick *July* 12, 1585
- *Indian*
  - *Troops, Colonial and, Queen's Reign*, *Q.* Mr. G. C. T. Bartley; *A.* Mr. Brodrick *June* 18, 366. *Q.* Colonel Denny; *A.* Mr. Brodrick *June* 28, 634
  - *Troopship, Warren Hastings, Wreck of*, *Q.* Captain Norton; *A.* Mr. Brodrick *June* 29, 742
- *Inns of Court Rifles*, *Q.* Sir C. Dilke; *A.* Mr. Brodrick *June* 28, 632

[*cont.*

ARMY—cont.

- *Machine Guns, Royalties*, *Q.* Mr. J. Caldwell; *A.* Mr. Powell-Williams *July* 1, 860. *Q.* Mr. J. G. Weir; *A.* Mr. Powell-Williams *July* 5, 1118
- *Matabeleland Rising*, *Q.* Mr. T. Lough; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain *July* 12, 1587
- *Medals*
  - *Chin Hills Military Operations*, *Q.* Captain Norton; *A.* Mr. Brodrick *June* 29, 741
  - *Thirty-third Regiment*, *Q.* Mr. R. Pierpoint; *A.* Mr. Brodrick *June* 21, 429
- *Military*
  - *Bands on Jubilee Day*, *Q.* Mr. J. Aird; *A.* Mr. Brodrick *June* 3, 158
  - *District, Chester*, *Q.* Sir J. S. B. Simeon; *A.* Mr. Brodrick *July* 12, 1584
  - *Equipment, India*, *Q.* Mr. G. B. Hudson; *A.* Lord G. Hamilton *June* 1, 24
  - *Operations Medal, Chin Hills*, *Q.* Captain Norton; *A.* Mr. Brodrick *June* 29, 741
  - *Prisons, Corporal Punishment*, *Qs.* Mr. J. A. Pease; *As.* Mr. Brodrick *June* 3, 170; *June* 29, 736
- *Military Manœuvres Bill* (see that Title)
- *National Rifle Association, Colonial Teams*, *Qs.* Mr. W. Redmond; *As.* Mr. J. Chamberlain *June* 18, 372
- *Nile Expedition*, *Q.* Sir J. B. Edwards; *A.* Mr. Brodrick *July* 5, 1098
- *Pensioners*, *Qs.* Mr. P. O'Brien; *As.* Mr. Brodrick *June* 4, 266
- *Pensions*
  - *Connaughton (Michael)*, *Q.* Mr. J. Tully; *A.* Mr. Powell-Williams *June* 1, 23
  - *Deferred*, *Q.* Mr. Swift MacNeill; *A.* Mr. Powell-Williams *June* 25, 559
  - *Smith (Owen)*, *Q.* Mr. S. Young; *A.* Mr. Powell-Williams *July* 6, 1211
- *Prisons*
  - *Military, Corporal Punishment*, *Qs.* Mr. J. A. Pease; *As.* Mr. Brodrick *June* 3, 170; *June* 29, 736
  - *Rules*, *Qs.* Mr. J. A. Pease; *As.* Sir Matthew White Ridley, Mr. Powell-Williams *July* 6, 1210
- *Queen's Reign*
  - *Aldershot Review*, *Qs.* Mr. A. F. Jeffreys, Sir H. Havelock-Allan; *As.* Mr. Brodrick *June* 18, 366. *Q.* Sir Elliott Lees; *A.* Mr. Brodrick *July* 5, 1111. *Q.* Colonel Welby; *A.* Mr. Brodrick *July* 8, 1343
  - *British Volunteers in India*, *Q.* Mr. J. M. Maclean; *A.* Mr. Curzon *June* 21, 426
  - *Colonial Troops*
    - *England, in*, *Q.* Sir H. Vincent; *A.* Mr. Brodrick *July* 5, 1101
    - *Indian and*, *Q.* Mr. G. C. T. Bartley; *A.* Mr. Brodrick *June* 18, 366. *Q.* Colonel Denny; *A.* Mr. Brodrick *June* 28, 634
    - *Procession*, *Q.* Major Jameson; *A.* Mr. Brodrick *June* 18, 367
  - *Crimean and Mutiny Veterans*, *Q.* Mr. F. A. Channing; *A.* Mr. Brodrick *June* 3, 156. *Q.* Sir E. T. Gourley; *A.* Mr. Brodrick *June* 4, 264
  - *Indian and Colonial Troops*, *Q.* Mr. G. C. T. Bartley; *A.* Mr. Brodrick *June* 18, 366. *Q.* Colonel Denny; *A.* Mr. Brodrick *June* 28, 634

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- *ARMY*—cont.
  - *Queen's Reign*—cont.
    - *Jubilee*
      - *Day*
        - *Bands*, *Qs.* Mr. J. Aird ; *As.* Mr. Brodrick *June* 3, 158 ; *July* 12, 1598
        - *Local Celebrations*, *Q.* Mr. E. Lawrence ; *A.* Mr. Brodrick *June* 4, 265
      - *Procession*, *Q.* Sir H. Vincent ; *A.* Mr. Brodrick *June* 3, 160. *Q.* Captain Pirie ; *A.* Mr. Brodrick *June* 18, 368
  - *Recruits*, *Foot Guards*, *Qs.* Mr. J. H. C. Hozier, Dr. Farquharson ; *As.* Mr. Brodrick *July* 9, 1466
  - *Review at Aldershot* (see subhead *Aldershot Review* above)
  - *Rifle Range*, *Volunteer*, *Gloucestershire*, *Q* General Russell ; *A.* Mr. Brodrick *June* 28, 637
  - *Schoolmasters*, *Q.* Mr. J. H. Yoxall ; *A.* Mr. Brodrick *June* 3, 168
  - *Second Dragoon Guards*, *Q.* Mr. J. W. Maclure; *A.* Mr. Brodrick *June* 21, 435
  - *Soldiers*, *Discharged*, *Q.* Captain Norton ; *A.* Mr. Brodrick *June* 4, 266
  - *Thirty-third Regiment*, *Medals*, *Q.* Mr. R. Pierpoint ; *A.* Mr. Brodrick *June* 21, 429
  - *Volunteers*
    - *Airdrie*, *Qs.* Mr. J. Wilson (Falkirk) ; *As.* Mr. Brodrick *June* 3, 173
    - *Inns of Court Rifles*, *Q.* Sir C. Dilke ; *A.* Mr. Brodrick *June* 28, 632
    - *Rifle Range*, *Gloucestershire*, *Q.* General Russell ; *A.* Mr. Brodrick *June* 28, 637
  - *Winchester Barracks*, *Q.* Mr. W. H. Myers ; *A.* Brodrick *July* 8, 1349
  - *Wreck of Indian Troopship*, *Warren Hastings*, *Q.* Captain Norton ; *A.* Mr. Brodrick *June* 29, 742. *Q.* Mr. J. L. Wanklyn ; *A.* Mr. Brodrick *July* 2, 967

- ARNOLD-FORSTER, Mr. H. O., *Belfast*, *W.*
  - Supply
    - £630,291 for National Education, Ireland *July* 2, 1003
    - £137,137 for Public Works and Buildings, Ireland *July* 2, 984
    - £2,450 for Queen's Colleges, Ireland *July* 9, 1531

- ASCROFT, Mr. R., *Oldham*
  - Chaff-cutting Machines (Accidents) Bill *July* 9, 1475
  - Teachers' Superannuation *July* 9, 1477
  - Verminous Persons Bill, 3R. *July* 7, 1304
  - Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill *July* 6, 1236, 1246, 1247, 1249, 1250, 1261, 1275 ; *July* 8, 1388, 1394, 1398

- ASHBOURNE, LORD (Lord Chancellor of Ireland)
  - Land Legislation, Ireland *July* 5, 1065, 1068

- **Ashford Urban District Gas Bill**
  - Royal Assent *June* 3, 149

- ASHMEAD-BARTLETT, Sir ELLIS, *Sheffield*, *Ecclesall*
  - Business of the House, General *July* 2, 977
  - Chitpur Disturbances *July* 5, 1113

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- ASHMEAD-BARTLETT, Sir ELLIS—*cont.*
  - Crete *June* 3, 175, 198, 199, 201 ; *July* 2, 971
  - Delagoa Bay *July* 5, 1101
  - Peace Negotiations at Constantinople *July* 8, 1364
  - Poona Outrages *July* 12, 1590, 1591
  - Queen's Reign, Naval Review *June* 18, 369
  - Supply
    - £64,876 for Colonial Services *June* 24, 545, 546, 552, 553, 555
    - £238,212 for Diplomatic and Consular Services *June* 24, 526, 528
  - Tokat Massacre *June* 3, 182

- ASHTON, Mr. T. GAIR, *Beds*, *Luton*
  - Queen's Reign, Jubilee Procession *June* 1, 17

- ASQUITH, Right Hon. H. H., *Fife*, *E.*
  - Business of the House, General *June* 2, 146, 147
  - Supply : £83,566 for Home Office, Salaries and Expenses *June* 18, 410
  - Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill, In Com. *June* 1, 42, 52 ; *June* 2, 100, 113, 124 ; *July* 5, 1134, 1135, 1142, 1168, 1180, 1182 ; *July* 6, 1255, 1287 ; *July* 8, 1392, 1400, 1401

- **Assam Railways and Trading Company Bill**
  - Royal Assent *June* 3, 149

- ATKINSON, RIGHT HON. JOHN (Attorney General for Ireland), *Londonderry*, *N.*
  - Alleged Larceny, Monaghan *June* 1, 30
  - County Cess, Ireland *July* 2, 969, 970
  - Dingle Harbour, Kerry *June* 25, 558
  - Giant's Causeway *June* 3, 174
  - Irish
    - Judiciary *June* 24, 508
    - Land Commission *June* 24, 507 ; *June* 25, 562
  - Kilkenny Petty Sessions *June* 3, 179
  - Loan Fund Societies, Ireland *June* 25, 561
  - Monaghan
    - Alleged Larceny *June* 1, 30
    - Magistracy *June* 25, 565
  - Street Disturbances, Dublin *June* 25, 563, 564
  - Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill, In Com. *June* 4, 280

- AUSTIN, Mr. M., *Limerick*, *W.*
  - Plumbers' Registration Bill *June* 30, 828
  - Supply : £26,247 for Public Works Office, Ireland *July* 9, 1516
  - Verminous Persons Bill, 3R. *July* 7, 1307

- *Australasia*
  - *New Hebrides*, *Q.* Mr. J. F. Hogan ; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain *July* 8, 1361
  - *New South Wales*, *Death Duties*, *Qs.* Mr. R. Cox ; *As.* Mr. J. Chamberlain *June* 29, 724

BADEN-POWELL, Sir GEORGE S., *Liverpool, Kirkdale*
  Death Duties *June* 21, 432
  Queen's Reign, Naval Review *June* 21, 424

BAINBRIDGE, Mr. EMERSON, *Lincolnshire, Gainsborough*
  Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill, In Com. *June* 1, 61, 64; *June* 2, 125, 129; *June* 3, 230, 231, 242, 243; *July* 6, 1248; *July* 8, 1350; *July* 12, 1627, 1650

BALDWIN, Mr. A., *Worcester, Bewdley*
  Charity Lands Trustees *July* 5, 1104

BALFOUR, LORD (Secretary for Scotland)
  Market Gardeners' Compensation (Scotland) Bill, 2R. *July* 2, 948
  Municipal Elections (Scotland) Bill, 2R. *July* 8, 1336
  Provisional Order (Scotland) Bill *July* 2, 949

BALFOUR, RIGHT HON. ARTHUR JAMES (First Lord of the Treasury), *Manchester, E.*
  Adjournment of the House *June* 21, 457; *June* 28, 681
  Adulteration of Food Products *June* 21, 438
  Board of Trade *June* 3, 184
  Business of the House
    General, *June* 2, 146, 147, 148; *June* 3, 186; *June* 17, 288, 289; *June* 21, 439; *June* 24, 509; *June* 29, 745; *July* 2, 977, 978, 979; *July* 8, 1366; *July* 9, 1540; *July* 12, 1602, 1603
    Government Business *June* 21, 457, 458
    Order of Business *June* 25, 566, 567
    Supply, Irish
      Education Vote *June* 28, 649
      Estimates *July* 1, 875
  Catholic University Education (Ireland) *July* 1, 874
  Chaff-cutting Machines (Accidents) Bill *July* 9, 1475, 1477
  Coal Supplies *June* 3, 186
  Commemoration Service in St. Margaret's Church *June* 17, 289; *July* 2, 979
  Committees, House of Lords *June* 17, 287
  Congested Districts (Scotland) Grants *June* 4, 281
  Crete *June* 1, 12; *June* 3, 186, 194, 195
  Deportation of Paupers *June* 29, 744
  Derby Day *June* 1, 31
  Destruction of Crops, Essex *June* 28, 652; *June* 29, 739
  Duke and Duchess of York, Visit to Ireland *July* 1, 875
  Education, Scotland, Grants *June* 3, 256
  Elementary School Teachers' Superannuation *June* 21, 437
  Financial Relations, Great Britain and Ireland *June* 25, 566; *June* 29, 745
  Foreign Prison-made Goods Bill *June* 28, 669, 670
  Government Servants, Minimum Wage *June* 29, 745

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BALFOUR, Right Hon. A. J.—*cont.*
  House of Commons, Distinguished Strangers *July* 6, 1224
  Indian Budget *July* 5, 1125
  Irish Judiciary *June* 3, 184
  Isle of Man (Church Building Acts) Bill, 2R. *June* 28, 673
  Kilkenny Water Works *July* 5, 1125
  Land Law Acts, Ireland, Royal Commission *July* 9, 1478
  Land Transfer Bill, 2R. *June* 28, 674; *July* 1, 941, 944
  Message from the Queen *June* 29, 811, 812
  Metropolitan Water Companies Bill *June* 1, 30
  Military Manœuvres Bill *June* 25, 566
  Naval Works, Money *July* 5, 1126
  Old Age Pensions *July* 9, 1475
  Plague in India *July* 5, 1123
  Private
    Bill Procedure *June* 3, 185
    Business *July* 2, 1036
  Public Health (Scotland) Bill *June* 28, 652
  Queen and the Commons *July* 1, 875
  Queen's Diamond Jubilee, Address to Her Majesty *June* 21, 440, 455, 456; *June* 23, 482, 483
  Queen's Reign
    House of Commons Reception *June* 28, 634, 635
    Jubilee Day, Pay *June* 3, 161
    Jubilee Medal *July* 8, 1365
  St. Paul's Cathedral *July* 12, 1600
  Supply
    £238 212 for Diplomatic and Consular Services *June* 24, 532, 533, 537
    £4,306,910 for Public Education, England and Wales *June* 17, 350
    £2,450 for Queen's Colleges, Ireland *July* 9, 1533, 1538
    £549,992 for Science and Art Department, Salaries and Expenses *June* 17, 351
  Teachers' Superannuation *July* 9, 1477
  Wallace Bequest *July* 5, 1124
  Welsh Land Commission *July* 12, 1600
  Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill, In Com., *June* 4, 280; *July* 6, 1289; *July* 8, 1426, 1428, 1431

BALFOUR, RIGHT HON. GERALD W. (Chief Secretary for Ireland), *Leeds, Central*
  Agricultural Rating Act *June* 29, 727, 728
  Allotments in Ireland *June* 29, 744
  Assault Case, Aughnacloy, Ireland *June* 29, 734
  Asylums, Ireland *July* 2, 960
  Ballyshannon Dispensary Committee *July* 12, 1588
  Baltimore, Ireland *June* 3, 166
  Bangor Town Commissioners, Down *July* 5, 1098
  Bantry, Cork
    Fairs and Market Tolls *July* 5, 1099
    Pier *July* 6 1223
  Belfast Police Court Cells *June* 28, 641, 642
  Belmullet Union *June* 28, 646, 647; *July* 6, 1219, 1220; *July* 8, 1359 1360, 1361; *July* 9, 1472, 1473
  Cavan, Garvagh Estate *June* 29, 729

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BALFOUR, Right Hon. GERALD W.—*cont.*

- Charge of Theft, Dublin *June* 28, 644
- Civil Bill Courts, Ireland *July* 12, 1590
- Cloughoula National School, Ireland *July* 12, 1593
- Cork, Bantry
  - Fairs and Market Tolls *July* 5, 1199
  - Pier *July* 6, 1223
- Divisional Commissioner, Monaghan *July* 2, 952
- Dublin
  - Charge of Theft *June* 28, 644
  - Metropolitan Police *July* 9, 1471
  - Publicans' Licences *July* 2, 976
  - Queen's Reign, Celebrations *June* 28, 636; *July* 5, 1110
  - Street Disturbances *July* 1, 862; *July* 6, 1221
- Education Endowments (Ireland) Act (1885) Amendment Bill, In Com. *June* 28, 677, 680
- Erasmus Smith Endowments *July* 12, 1595
- Evictions, Ireland *July* 12, 1582
- Fairs and Market Tolls, Bantry, Cork *July* 5, 1099
- Fever Outbreak, Belmullet Union *June* 28, 646, 647
- Floods, Kerry *July* 6, 1213
- Franchise, Ireland *July* 5, 1111, 1112
- Garvagh Estate, Cavan *June* 29, 729
- Glebe Tenants, Ireland *July* 8, 1347
- Grand Jury, Wicklow *June* 21, 434
- Illegal Trawling, Galway Bay *July* 6, 1221
- Intermediate Education, Examinations, Ireland *June* 21, 439
- Irish
  - Fisheries *July* 9, 1463
  - Judiciary *July* 5, 1108, 1109
  - Land Commission *June* 3, 164, 165; *June* 24, 507; *June* 28, 648; *June* 29, 731; *July* 6, 1215; *July* 8, 1361
- Labourers
  - Acts, Ireland *July* 8, 1348
  - Dwellings, Ireland *June* 29, 729; *July* 1, 871
- Land Law (Ireland) Acts *July* 2, 973, 974; *July* 9, 1477, 1479
- Light Railways, Ireland *July* 8, 1357
- Local Taxation, Ireland *June* 29, 734
- Lunacy, Ireland *June* 29, 728
- Maryborough Prison, Patrick Conneely *June* 3, 177
- Magistracy, Monaghan *July* 5, 1094
- Monaghan
  - Divisional Commissioner *July* 2, 952
  - Magistracy *July* 5, 1094
- Muzzling Order, Sheep Dogs *June* 28, 638
- National
  - Education Board, Ireland *July* 8, 1353, 1354
  - Schools
    - Cloughoula, Ireland *July* 12, 1593
    - Ireland *July* 2, 961, 962, 963; *July* 12, 1598
    - Teachers' Pension, Ireland *June* 21, 430, 431; *June* 29, 740
- Pier, Bantry *July* 6, 1223
- Police
  - Court Cells, Belfast *June* 23, 641, 642
  - Dublin Metropolitan *July* 9, 1471
  - Royal Irish Constabulary (see below)
- Prisons, Maryborough *June* 3, 177
- Private Bill Legislation, Ireland *June* 1, 31
- Publicans' Licences, Dublin *July* 2, 976

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BALFOUR, Right Hon. GERALD W.—*cont.*

- Queen's Reign, Dublin Celebrations *June* 28, 636; *July* 5, 1110
- Royal Irish Constabulary *June* 3, 181; *June* 28, 643; *July* 2, 968, 969; *July* 6, 1215; *July* 9, 1474
- School Fee Grant, Ireland *July* 8, 1354
- Street Disturbances, Dublin *July* 1, 862; *July* 6, 1221
- Supply
  - £2,771 for Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, Household of *July* 2, 1034, 1035
  - £630,291 for National Education, Ireland *July* 2, 995, 996, 998, 999, 1000, 1006, 1007, 1025, 1026, 1027, 1028, 1033. Report *July* 5, 1186, 1187
  - £26,247 for Public Works Office, Ireland *July* 9, 1497, 1502, 1511
- Technical Education, Ireland *July* 9, 1472
- Town Tenants, Ireland *July* 6, 1221
- Treason-felony Prisoners *July* 8, 1345
- Union, Belmullet *June* 28, 646, 647; *July* 6, 1219, 1220; *July* 8, 1359, 1360, 1361; *July* 9, 1472, 1473
- Wicklow, Grand Jury *June* 21, 434
- Workhouse Infirmaries and Fever Hospitals, Ireland *June* 1, 21

BALFOUR, Right Hon. JOHN BLAIR, *Clackmannan and Kinross*

- Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill, In Com. *June* 1, 72; *June* 2, 120; *July* 8, 1395

BANBURY, Mr. FREDERICK G., *Camberwell, Peckham*

- Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill, In Com. *June* 1, 73

BARTLEY, Mr. G. C. T., *Islington, N.*

- Finance Bill, In Com. *June* 3, 253
- Forgery, Bynoe and Ripsher *July* 6, 1212
- Jubilee Medals *July* 5, 1105
- Plumbers' Registration Bill *June* 21, 428
- Queen's Reign
  - Indian and Colonial Troops *June* 18, 366
  - Jubilee Day, Pay *June* 3, 161; *June* 4, 264
- Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill, In Com. *June* 3, 221

BAYLEY, Mr. THOMAS, *Derby, Chesterfield*

- Dog-muzzling, Sheep Dogs *June* 21, 428
- Indian Loans *July* 2, 965
- Plumbers' Registration Bill *June* 30, 844
- Queen and the Commons *July* 1, 875
- Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill, In Com *June* 1, 53
- Zanzibar, Slavery *June* 18, 371

BEACH, RIGHT HON. SIR M. HICKS Bart. (Chancellor of the Exchequer), *Bristol, W.*

- Agricultural Rating Act *June* 29, 728; *July* 5, 1098
- Cocoa Butter *July* 9, 1452
- Death Duties *June* 21, 432; *June* 29, 742
- Education (Scotland) Bill, 2R. *July* 1, 915

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Beach, Right Hon. Sir M. E. Hicks—*cont.*
  Education, Scotland, Grants *June* 21, 464, 465
  Egypt *June* 3, 176
  Estate Duty *June* 3, 178
  Exchequers of Ireland and Great Britain *June* 25, 558
  Finance Bill, In Com. *June* 3, 251, 252, 254; *June* 29, 749, 757, 769, 770, 772, 773, 775, 779, 781; *July* 1, 934
  Incorporated Law Society *June* 29, 729
  Irish Judiciary *June* 29, 726, 727
  Local Taxation Account *July* 1, 872
  Naval Works, Money *July* 5, 1126
  Pensions Commutation Act *June* 1, 29
  Post Office (Sites) Bill, In Com. *July* 1, 935
  Royal Irish Constabulary *June* 29, 732
  South Kensington Museum *June* 3, 154
  Supply
    £27,323 for Fishery Board, Scotland, *June* 25, 583
    £630,291 for National Education, Ireland *July* 2, 1002, 1010, 1014, 1017
    £4 306,910 for Public Education, England and Wales *June* 17, 342
    £60,672 for Treasury *June* 18, 399
  Teachers (Ireland) Pension Act (1879) *July* 9, 1452

Beckett, Mr. Ernest W., *Yorkshire, N.R., Whitby*
  Hawaii Islands *June* 24, 506

Belfast Water Bill
c. 2R., Mr. J. Dillon *July* 1, 857
  Read 2° *July* 1, 858

Belmore, Earl of
  Land Legislation, Ireland *July* 5, 1073
  Tithe Rent-charge, Ireland *July* 12, 1541

BELPER, Lord (Captain of the Corps of Gentlemen-at-Arms)
  Discharged Prisoners Aid Societies *July* 5, 1042, 1043
  Metropolitan and Other Police Courts Bill, 2R. *July* 9, 1447
  Police Property Bill, 2R. *July* 9, 1448

Berriew School Bill
c. 3R., Debate Resumed: Mr. Ellis Griffith, 792; Mr. W. Jones, 792; (*Division*, 793) *June* 29
  Read 3° and Passed *June* 29, 793
l. Read 1ª *July* 2, 950
  Read 2ª and com. to Com. of Whole House *July* 9, 1451
  In Com., Rep. without Amendt. *July* 12, 1580

Bethell, Captain G. R., *Yorkshire, E.R., Holderness*
  Land Transfer Bill, 2R. *July* 1, 940, 944
  Supply
    £64,876 for Colonial Services *June* 24, 552
    £238,212 for Diplomatic and Consular Services *June* 24, 515, 520, 537
    £19,923 for Temporary Commissions, etc., Salaries and Expenses *June* 18, 377

Betting Act (1853) Repeal Bill
c. Intro., Mr. J. Tully; Read 1° *June* 1, 32

Bhownaggree, Sir Mancherjee M., *Bethnal Green, N.E.*
  Poona Outrages *June* 24, 510; *July* 9, 1462

Biddulph, Mr. M., *Herefordshire, Ross*
  Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill *July* 8, 1409

Bigwood, Mr. J., *Middlesex, Brentford*
  Southwark and Vauxhall Water Bill *June* 24, 488

Billson, Mr. Alfred, *Halifax*
  Kew Gardens *June* 28, 631
  Land Transfer Bill, 2R. *July* 1, 942
  Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill, In Com. *June* 1, 47; *July* 8, 1395, 1396

Birmingham, Tame, and Rea District Drainage Board Bill.
  Royal Assent *June* 3, 149

Birrell, Mr. Augustine, *Fife, W.*
  Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill *July* 6, 1258

Blundell, Colonel H. B. H., *Lancashire, S.W., Ince*
  Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill, In Com. *June* 2, 132; *July* 6, 1235; *July* 12, 1624

Bolitho, Mr. T. B., *Cornwall, St. Ives*
  Queen's Reign, Jubilee Medals *July* 1, 867

Bond, Mr. E., *Nottingham, E.*
  Delivery of Telegrams
    Insufficient Addresses *June* 3, 154
    Nottingham *June* 28, 630
  Plumbers' Registration Bill *June* 30, 828
  Polling Arrangements (Parliamentary Boroughs) Bill, Intro. *July* 9, 1479
  Polling Districts (County Councils) Bill, Intro. *July* 9, 1479
  Post Office (Sites) Bill *June* 21, 477

Boulnois, Mr. E., *Marylebone, E.*
  Life Assurance Companies Act, 1870 *July* 12, 1596
  Metropolitan Water Companies Bill, 2R *June* 28, 658
  Queen's Reign, Omnibus Fares *June* 28, 635

Bousfield, Mr. W. R., *Hackney, N.*
  Weights and Measures Acts *June* 3, 172
  Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill, In Com. *June* 1, 46, 53, 54, 55, 80; *July* 5, 1172; *July* 8, 1414

Bowles, Mr. T. Gibson, *Lynn Regis*
- Adjournment of the House *June* 28, 683
- Business of the House, General *June* 17, 288
- Collisions at Sea *June* 17, 285
- Crete *June* 3, 203
- Education Endowments (Ireland) Act (1885) Amendment Bill, In Com. *June* 28, 677, 678
- Egyptian Political Prisoners *June* 28, 639
- Estate Duty *June* 3, 178
- Finance Bill, In Com. *June* 29, 770, 771, 772, 773, 775, 776
- Foreign Prison-made Goods Bill *June* 28, 669
- Muzzling Order (Sheep Dogs) *June* 28, 638
- Parliamentary Franchise (Extension to Women) Bill *July* 6, 1209, 1210
- Post Office (Sites) Bill, 2R. *June* 21, 477
- Public Revenue *June* 17, 285
- Queen's Reign
  - Charges for Telegrams *July* 1, 867, 868
  - Naval Review *June* 21, 426 ; *June* 29, 738
- Supply
  - £19,923 for Temporary Commissions, etc., Salaries and Expenses *June* 18, 376, 386
  - £60,672 for Treasury *June* 18, 389, 396, 398, 399
- Telegraph Charges *July* 12, 1588
- Thessaly *July* 2, 972, 973
- Verminous Persons Bill, 3R. *July* 7, 1303, 1308, 1309
- Weights and Measures (Metric System) Bill, 2R. *June* 21, 477
- Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill, In Com. *June* 1, 45, 56, 58, 78 ; *June* 2, 101, 112, 139 ; *June* 3, 249, 250 ; *June* 4, 271, 272, 278 ; *July* 5, 1136, 1137, 1141, 1142, 1147, 1167, 1178 ; *July* 6, 1231, 1247, 1258, 1267, 1268 ; *July* 8, 1387, 1389, 1405 ; *July* 12, 1629, 1655
- Wreck of *S.S. Aden July* 1, 875

Bray and Enniskerry Railway (Extension of Time) Bill
- Royal Assent *June* 3, 149

Brigg, Mr. John, *Yorks, W.R., Keighley*
- Plumbers Registration Bill *June* 30, 840 ; *July* 7, 1319
- Supply
  - £238,212 for Diplomatic and Consular Services *June* 24, 542
  - £4,306,910 for Public Education, England and Wales *June* 17, 344
  - £26,247 for Public Works Office, Ireland *July* 9, 1518

Bristol Tramways Bill
- Royal Assent *June* 3, 149

Broadhurst, Mr. Henry, *Leicester*
- Business of the House, General *June* 2, 147, 148 ; *June* 24, 509
- Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill, In Com. *June* 1, 44, 63, 65, 74 ; *June* 2, 102, 136 ; *June* 3, 209 ; *June* 4, 271 ; *July* 5, 1151 ; *July* 8, 1374, 1409, 1415 ; *July* 12, 1619 ; 1620, 1635, 1668

BRODRICK, Right Hon. WILLIAM St. JOHN F. (Under Secretary of State for War), *Surrey, Guildford*
- Airdrie Volunteers *June* 3, 173
- Army
  - Pensioners *June* 4, 266
  - Schoolmasters *June* 3, 168
- Artillery, Horse and Field *July* 12, 1585
- Brennan Torpedoes *July* 9, 1461
- Brigade of Guards *June* 3, 161, 162
- Cavalry Service Squadrons *June* 28, 645
- Chester Military District *July* 12, 1584
- Chin Hills Military Operations, Medal *June* 29, 742
- Colonial
  - Military Prisons, Corporal Punishment *June* 29, 736
  - Troops in England *July* 5, 1101
- Discharged Soldiers *June* 4, 267
- Grenadier Guards *July* 9, 1466
- Guards
  - Brigade of *June* 3, 161, 162
  - Dragoon, Second *June* 21, 435
  - Foot, Recruits *July* 9, 1466
  - Grenadier *July* 9, 1466
- Horse and Field Artillery *July* 12, 1585
- Inns of Court Rifles *June* 28, 633
- Medals
  - Chin Hills Military Operations *June* 29, 742
  - Thirty-third Regiment *June* 21, 429
- Military
  - District, Chester *July* 12, 1584
  - Operations Medal, Chin Hills *June* 29, 742
  - Prisons, Corporal Punishment *June* 3, 170 ; *June* 29, 736
- Military Manœuvres Bill, 1R. *July* 8, 1367
- Nile Expedition *July* 5, 1098
- Queen's Reign
  - Aldershot Review *June* 18, 366 ; *June* 21, 438 ; *July* 5, 1111 ; *July* 8, 1344
  - Crimean and Indian Veterans *June* 3, 156 ; *June* 4, 264
  - Indian and Colonial Troops *June* 18, 366 ; *June* 28, 634
  - Jubilee Day
    - Bands *June* 3, 158 ; *July* 12, 1598
    - Local Celebrations *June* 4, 265
  - Jubilee Procession *June* 3, 161 ; *June* 18, 367, 369
- Recruits, Foot Guards *July* 9, 1466
- Second Dragoon Guards *June* 21, 435
- Volunteer Rifle Range, Gloucestershire *June* 28, 637
- Winchester Barracks *July* 8, 1349
- Wreck, Indian Troopship *Warren Hastings June* 29, 742 ; *July* 2, 967

Brookfield, Mr. A. M., *Sussex, Rye*
- Delagoa Bay Railway *July* 2, 957

Brunner, Sir John T., Bart., *Cheshire, Northwich*
- Plumbers' Registration Bill *July* 7, 1325
- Voluntary Schools Act (1897) *June* 3, 171
- Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill, In Com. *June* 3, 206, 207, 210, 211, 244 ; *July* 6, 1262 ; *July* 12, 1656, 1657

Bryce, Right Hon. James, *Aberdeen, S.*
- Business of the House, General *July* 12, 1603
- Crete *June* 1, 12 ; *June* 3, 197
- Education, Scotland, Grants *June* 21, 466
- Supply
  - £238,212 for Diplomatic and Consular Services *June* 24, 544, 545
  - £27,323 for Fishery Board, Scotland *June* 25, 577

Buchanan, Mr. T. R., *Aberdeenshire, E.*
- Business of the House, General *June* 2, 147
- Education (Scotland) Bill, 2R. *July* 1, 897
- Queen's Reign, Municipal Address *July* 1, 867
- Supply
  - £27,323 for Fishery Board, Scotland *June* 25, 576
  - £8,111 for Secretary for Scotland Office, Salaries and Expenses *June* 25, 570, 571

Bucknill, Mr. T. T., *Surrey, Epsom*
- Plumbers' Registration Bill *June* 30, 833

Building Feus and Leases (Scotland) Bill
c. Withdrawn *June* 21, 440

Burdett-Coutts, Mr. W. L. A. B., *Westminster*
- Queen's Reign, Naval Review *June* 21, 425

Burns, Mr. John, *Battersea*
- Finance Bill, In Com. *June* 3, 252
- Plumbers' Registration Bill *June* 30, 829, 847, 850 ; *July* 7, 1321, 1328
- Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill, In Com. *June* 2, 100, 108 ; *June* 3, 214, 231, 233, 246, 247, 250 ; *July* 8, 1381, 1382, 1389, 1404, 1413, 1417, 1425

Burt, Mr. Thomas, *Morpeth*
- Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill, In Com. *June* 3, 218, 238 ; *July* 6, 1267 ; *July* 12, 1645

Business of the House (see Parliament : Lords ; Commons)

Butcher, Mr. John G., *York*
- Supply : £26,247 for Public Works Office, Ireland *July* 9, 1506
- Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill *July* 5, 1152

Buxton, Mr. Sydney, *Tower Hamlets, Poplar*
- Metropolitan Water Companies Bill *June* 1, 30 ; 2R. *June* 28, 652
- Southwark and Vauxhall Water Bill *June* 24, 493

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Buxton, Mr. Sydney—*cont.*
- Supply
  - £64,876 for Colonial Services *June* 24, 551, 553
  - £238,212 for Diplomatic and Consular Services *June* 24, 532
- Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill, In Com. *June* 1, 39, 50, 64, 73 ; *June* 2, 107 ; *June* 3, 213, 214 ; *July* 5, 1167 ; *July* 8, 1404, 1407, 1414, 1429

Caldwell, Mr. J., *Lanark, Mid*
- Brennan Torpedo *July* 1, 860
- Business of the House, General *June* 2, 148
- Congested Districts (Scotland) Bill, 2R. *June* 21, 476 ; In Com. *June* 29, 793, 794, 797, 801, 803, 804, 805, 807, 809 ; *July* 1, 917, 918, 919, 927, 928, 929, 931, 933
- Congested Districts, Scotland, Grants *June* 4, 281 ; *June* 17, 357
- County Asylums *July* 9, 1460
- Education, Scotland, Grants *June* 3, 256 ; *June* 21, 468, 471
- Illegal Trawling *July* 1, 865
- Machine Guns *July* 1, 860
- Parish Councils, Scotland *July* 1, 860
- Pauper Patients, County Asylums *July* 1, 859
- Postal Facilities, Lewis *July* 1, 866
- Post Office (Sites) Bill, In Com. *July* 1, 935
- Regulations of Railways Act, 1889 *July* 9, 1460
- Supply
  - £630,291 for National Education, Ireland *July* 2, 1032
  - £4,306,910 for Public Education, England and Wales *June* 17, 328, 344
  - £604,933 for Public Education, Scotland *June* 25, 609
- Ventilation, Metropolitan Railways *July* 1, 866
- Verminous Persons Bill, 3R. *July* 7, 1311
- Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill, In Com. *June* 4, 279

Cameron, Mr. R., *Durham, Houghton-le-Spring*
- Supply : £604,933 for Public Education, Scotland ; Report *June* 29, 791

Cameron, Sir Charles, Bart., *Glasgow, Bridgeton*
- Arrest by Venezuelan Authorities *July* 5, 1112
- Business of the House, General *July* 2, 978, 979
- Education, Scotland, Grants, *June* 21, 462
- Lochmaddy Water Scheme *July* 5, 1095
- School Corporal Punishment, Scotland *June* 25, 565
- Supply : £7,951 for Local Government Board (Scotland), Salaries and Expenses *June* 25, 588

Campbell-Bannerman, Right Hon. Sir Henry, *Stirling Burghs*
- Business of the House, General *June* 17, 288 ; *June* 24, 509
- Education (Scotland) Bill, 2R. *July* 1, 910
- Education, Scotland, Grants *June* 21, 460, 461
- Military Manœuvres Bill, 1R. *July* 8, 1368

CAMPBELL, Mr. JAMES A., *Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities*
Education (Scotland) Bill, 2R. *July* 1, 888
Supply: £604,933 for Public Education, Scotland *June* 25, 612

CAMPERDOWN, Earl of
Provisional Order (Scotland) Bill *July* 2, 949
Queen's Diamond Jubilee, Address to Her Majesty *June* 21, 422

CANTERBURY, Lord Archbishop of *(Dr. Frederick Temple)*
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CAREW, Mr. J. L., *Dublin, College Green*
Irish
- Mail Service *July* 8, 1344
- Tourist Traffic *July* 6, 1217

National School Teachers, Ireland *June* 4, 267
Workhouse Infirmaries and Fever Hospitals, Ireland *June* 1, 21

CARLILE, Mr. W. W., *Bucks, N.*
Vaccination (Calf Lymph) Bill, Intro. *June* 3, 260

CARSON, Right Hon. EDWARD H., *Dublin University*
Supply
- £630,291 for National Education, Ireland *July* 2, 1021, 1026, 1027, 1029
- £26,247 for Public Works Office, Ireland *July* 9, 1487, 1520
- £2,450 for Queen's Colleges, Ireland *July* 9, 1532

CASTLETOWN, Lord
Land Legislation, Ireland *July* 5, 1068, 1069

CAUSTON, Mr. R. K., *Southwark, W.*
Southwark and Vauxhall Water Company *July* 12, 1598

CAWLEY, Mr. FREDERICK, *Lancashire, S.E., Prestwich*
Patent Licences *July* 2, 954
Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill In Com. *June* 1, 77

CECIL, Lord HUGH, *Greenwich*
Education Endowments (Ireland) Act (1885) Amendment Bill, In Com. *June* 28, 679
Magnetic Observatory, Greenwich *June* 1, 30
Metropolitan Water Companies Bill, 2R. *June* 28, 664
Recovery of Debts, Married Women *July* 12, 1599
Supply: £4,306,910 for Public Education, England and Wales *June* 17, 349, 350

Chaff-cutting Machines (Accidents) Bill
c. Considered as Amended *July* 6, 1295
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l. Read 1ª *July* 8, 1336
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CHALONER, Captain R. G. W., *Wilts, Westbury*
Commemoration Service in St. Margaret's Church *July* 2, 979

CHAMBERLAIN, MR. J. AUSTEN (Civil Lord of the Admiralty), *Worcestershire, E.*
Business of the House, General *July* 8, 1366
Channel Squadron *June* 28, 631
Illegal Trawling, Scottish Waters *June* 28, 648
Navy Pension, Crimean Veteran: Smith (Owen) *June* 29, 730
Petty Officers (Naval) Drowned *July* 5, 1199
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CHAMBERLAIN, RIGHT HON. JOSEPH (Secretary of State for the Colonies), *Birmingham, W.*
British Columbia *June* 24, 500
Canada, Preferential Tariff *June* 1, 11
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Colonial Teams, National Rifle Association *June* 18, 372
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Death Duties, New South Wales *June* 29, 724
Gibraltar, Sanitary Works *July* 12, 1596
Khama's Territory *July* 8, 1358
Matabeleland Rising *July* 12, 1587
National Rifle Association, Colonial Rifle Teams *June* 18, 372
New Hebrides *July* 8, 1361
New South Wales, Death Duties *June* 29, 724
Queen's Reign
- Colonial Troops and Provincial Towns *June* 24, 504
- Jubilee Visitors *June* 18, 364

Release of Pretoria Reform Prisoners *June* 24, 511
St. Vincent, Contempt of Court *June* 18, 370
Supply: £64,876 for Colonial Services *June* 24, 548, 549, 550, 552, 554, 555
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CHANNING, Mr. F. A., *Northampton, E.*
Lochearnhead, St. Fillans, and Comrie Railway Bill *July* 5, 1090, 1091
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- Crimean and Indian Veterans *June* 3, 156
- Jubilee Day, Prison Fare *June* 3, 158

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CHAPLIN, Right Hon. HENRY (President of the Local Government Board), *Lincolnshire, Sleaford*
Agricultural Rating Act (1896) *July* 5, 1097; *July* 8, 1363
Ashbourne Board of Guardians *July* 12, 1581
Boarding-out Orders *July* 2, 967
Dispensers, Poor Law Unions *July* 8, 1358
Election of Medical Officers of Health, Yorkshire *July* 8, 1362
Horsham Burial District Joint Committee *July* 12, 1597
Lambeth Water Works Company *July* 12, 1599
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Voluntary School Rate, Didsbury *June* 28, 640
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Charity Lands Trustees, Q. Mr. A. Baldwin; *A.* Mr. Grant Lawson *July* 5, 1104

Chichester Corporation Water Bill
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l. Rep. from Standing Com. without Amendt. *June* 1, 4
3R., Earl of Kimberley 1444, 1446; Lord Archbishop of York, 1445 *July* 9
Read 3a *July* 9, 1446
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c. Read 1° *July* 12, 1604

CIVIL SERVICE
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Clackmannan (Alloa and Tillicoultry) Water Supply Provisional Order Bill
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Clancy, Mr. J. J., *Dublin, N.*
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Clark, Dr. G. B., *Caithness*
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Supply
  £3,279 for Miscellaneous Expenses *June* 18, 388, 389
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Clifden, Viscount
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Clonbrock, Lord
Land Legislation (Ireland) *July* 5, 1044

Clyde Navigation (Extension of Time) Bill
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Cohen, Mr. B. L., *Islington, E.*
Finance Bill, In Com. *June* 3, 253
Queen's Reign, Jubilee Procession *June* 17, 285
Supply: £60,672 for Treasury *June* 18, 394
Water Supply (London) *June* 21, 433
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COLLINGS, Right Hon. JESSE (Under Secretary of State for the Home Department), *Birmingham, Bordesley*
Experiments on Living Animals *July* 8, 1342
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Colomb, Sir John C. R., *Great Yarmouth*
- British Navy, Gift of Ironclad by Cape Colony *July* 12, 1601
- Irish Judiciary *June* 3, 184
- Queen's Reign
  - Jubilee Procession *June* 3, 156, 160
  - Naval Review *June* 18, 365; *June* 21, 424
- Royal Marines *July* 12, 1592

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Under Secretary of State—Earl of Selborne.

- *British Columbia*, *Q.* Mr. J. F. Hogan; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain *June* 24, 500
- *Canada, Preferential Tariff*, *Q.* Sir H. Vincent; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain *June* 1, 10
- *Canadian Mail Service*, *Qs.* General Laurie; *As.* Mr. J. Chamberlain *June* 1, 9
- *Cape Colony, Gift of Ironclad by*, *Q.* Sir J. Colomb; *A.* Mr. G. J. Goschen *July* 12, 1601
- *Colonial*
  - *Rifle Teams, National Rifle Association*, *Qs.* Mr. W. Redmond; *As.* Mr. J. Chamberlain *June* 18, 372
  - *Troops* (see subhead *Queen's Reign* below)
- *Commission to Professions*, *Q.* Mr. W. Hazell; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain *July* 5, 1101
- *Contempt of Court, St. Vincent*, *Q.* Sir C. Dilke; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain *June* 18, 369
- *Death Duties, New South Wales*, *Qs.* Mr. R. Cox; *As.* Mr. J. Chamberlain *June* 29, 724
- *Gibraltar, Sanitary Works*, *Q.* Mr. E. Robertson; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain *July* 12, 1596
- *Khama's Territory*, *Q.* Mr. A. E. Hutton; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain *July* 8, 1358
- *Mail Service, Canadian*, *Qs.* General Laurie; *As.* Mr. J. Chamberlain *June* 1, 9
- *Matabeleland Rising*, *Q.* Mr. T. Lough; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain *July* 12, 1587
- *National Rifle Association, Colonial Rifle Teams*, *Qs.* Mr. W. Redmond; *As.* Mr. J. Chamberlain *June* 18, 372
- *New Hebrides*, *Q.* Mr. J. F. Hogan; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain *July* 8, 1361
- *New South Wales, Death Duties*, *Qs.* Mr. R. Cox; *As.* Mr. J. Chamberlain *June* 29, 724
- *Preferential Tariff, Canada*, *Q.* Sir H. Vincent; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain *June* 1, 10
- *Pretoria Reform Prisoners, Release of*, *Q.* Mr. M. Davitt; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain *June* 24, 510
- *Queen's Reign*
  - *Colonial Troops*
    - *England, in*, *Q.* Sir H. Vincent; *A.* Mr. Brodrick *July* 5, 1101
    - *Indian, and*, *Q.* Mr. G. C. T. Bartley; *A.* Mr. Brodrick *June* 18, 366. *Q.* Colonel Denny; *A.* Mr. Brodrick *June* 28, 634
    - *Naval Review*, *Qs.* Mr. J. L. Wanklyn, Mr. W. Allan, Sir J. Colomb; *As.* Mr. G. J. Goschen *June* 18, 364
    - *Procession*, *Q.* Major Jameson; *A.* Mr. Brodrick *June* 18, 367
    - *Provincial Towns, and*, *Qs.* Mr. J. L. Wanklyn, Mr. W. Johnston; *As.* Mr. J. Chamberlain *June* 24, 503
  - *Jubilee Visitors*, *Q.* Mr. J. L. Wanklyn; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain *June* 18, 364

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- *St. Vincent, Contempt of Court*, *Q.* Sir C. Dilke; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain *June* 18, 369
- *Transvaal, Sekukuni's Tribe*, *Q.* Mr. A. E. Pease; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain *June* 24, 508
- *Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill*, *Q.* Mr. E. Bainbridge; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain *July* 8, 1350

Colville, Mr. J., *Lanarkshire, N.E.*
- Supply
  - £7,951 for Local Government Board (Scotland), Salaries and Expenses *June* 25, 599
  - £604,933 for Public Education, Scotland *June* 25, 608
- Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill, In Com. *June* 2, 109, 110; *July* 6, 1234

Commins, Dr. Andrew, *Cork Co., S.E.*
- Kinsale Pier *July* 9, 1464
- Supply: £26,247 for Public Works Office, Ireland *July* 9, 1483

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- *c.* In Com., Mr. Graham Murray, (*Motion for Grant*) 281; [Chairman, 281;] (*Motion Agreed to*, 281); Mr. J. Caldwell, 281; Mr. A. J. Balfour, 281 *June* 4
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- Read 2° *June* 21, 476
- In Com., Mr. J. Caldwell, (*Amendt.*) 793, 794, 797, 801, (*Amendt.*) 803, 804, 805, (*Amendt.*) 805, 807, (*Amendts.*) 809; Mr. Graham Murray 794, 797, 798, 799, 801, 802, 803, 805, 807, 809; Mr. T. C. T. Warner 794; (*Amendt. withdrawn*, 794); Mr. J. G. Weir, (*Amendt.*) 795, 798, (*Amendt.*) 800, 802, 803, 807, 809; Mr. Hedderwick, 795, (*Amendt.*) 806; Mr. J. McLeod, 796, 798, 801, 804, 807; Dr. Tanner, 798, 800; Mr. Serjeant Hemphill, 799; (*Division*, 800); Mr. J. H. Dalziel, 802, 804; (*Amendt. Agreed to*, 802); Mr. J. Dillon, 805; (*Amendt. withdrawn*, 805); (*Amendt. Agreed to*, 806); [Chairman, 806, 807]; (*Division*, 808); (*Amendts. Agreed to*, 809, 811) *June* 29
- In Com., Debate Resumed: Mr. J. Caldwell, 917, 918, (*Amendt.*) 919; 927, 928, 929, (*Amendt.*) 929, 931, 933; Mr. J. McLeod, 918, 924, 933; Mr. Graham Murray, 918, 922, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932; Mr. Hedderwick, 923; Mr. Munro Ferguson, 923, 930; Dr. G. B. Clark, 924, (*Amendt.*) 925, 926, 928, 930, 931; Captain Sinclair, 925; Sir L. Lyell, 925; (*Division*, 925); (*Amendt. withdrawn*, 928); Mr. J. G. Weir, 931, 932; (*Amendt. withdrawn*, 931) *July* 1
- Rep. as Amended *July* 1, 934

Connemara, Lord
Turkey and Greece *July* 6, 1206

Cooke, Mr. C. W. Radcliffe, *Hereford*
Verminous Persons Bill, 3R. *July* 7, 1314

Copyright (Amendment) Bill
l. Select Com. Nominated *June* 1, 5

Corbett, Mr. A. Cameron, *Glasgow, Tradeston*
Supply: £7,951 for Local Government Board (Scotland), Salaries and Expenses *June* 25, 598

Cottage Homes Bill
c. 2R., Mr. D. Crilly, 1435; Mr. J. Hutton, 1435; Mr. J. A. Pease, 1435; Dr. Tanner, 1435; Mr. T. W. Russell, 1435 *July* 8
Withdrawn *July* 8, 1435

Cotton Cloth Factories Bill
c. Sir Matthew White Ridley, (*Motion for Leave to Intro.*) *July* 12, 1603
Intro., Sir Matthew White Ridley; Read 1° *July* 12, 1604

County Council (Advances) Bill
c. Intro., Mr. H. Hobhouse; Read 1° *June* 3, 260

Courtney, Right Hon. L. H., *Cornwall, Bodmin*
Finance Bill, In Com. *June* 29, 763
Parliamentary Franchise (Extension to Women) Bill *July* 6, 1209, 1210
Supply: £19,923 for Temporary Commissions, etc., Salaries and Expenses *June* 18, 386

Cowes Gas Bill
Royal Assent *June* 3, 149

Cowper, Earl
Sunday Bill, 2R. *June* 29, 704

Cox, Mr. R., *Edinburgh, S.*
Death Duties, New South Wales *June* 29, 724
General Register House, Edinburgh *June* 29, 725

Cox, Mr. T. Skewes- (see Skewes-Cox)

Craigcrook Mortification Bill
Royal Assent *June* 3, 149

Cranborne, Viscount, *Rochester*
Business of the House, General *July* 12, 1603
Education Department Report, School Maintenance *July* 5, 1103
Finance Bill, In Com. *June* 29, 781
Supply: £4,306,910 for Public Education, England and Wales *June* 17, 298, 308, 309, 321
Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill, *July* 6, 1284

Crean, Mr. E., *Queen's County, Ossory*
Irish Mail Service *June* 1, 22
Yorkshire Coroners Bill, In Com., *July* 12, 1679

Crete
Mr. A. J. Balfour, (*Motion for Adj.*) 186, 194, 195; Sir C. Dilke, 187; Mr. J. Dillon, 189, 191, 194, 201; Mr. Curzon, 190; Mr. J. Bryce, 197; Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett, 198, 199, 201; Mr. T. P. O'Connor, 198, 202; Mr. Gibson Bowles, 203; Mr. J. A. Pease, 204; (*Motion Agreed to*, 205) *June* 3
(For Questions see Foreign Office)

Crichton Royal Institution Bill
Royal Assent *June* 3, 149

Crilly, Mr. D., *Mayo, N.*
Belmullet Union *June* 28, 646, 647; *July* 6, 1219, 1220; *July* 8, 1359, 1360, 1361; *July* 9, 1473
Business of the House, Government Business *June* 21, 458
Cottage Homes Bill, 2R. *July* 8, 1435
Destruction of Crops, Essex *July* 1, 870
Fever Outbreak, Belmullet Union *June* 28, 646, 647; *July* 6, 1219, 1220; *July* 8, 1359, 1360, 1361; *July* 9, 1473
Pier and Harbour Provisional Order (No. 2) Bill *June* 1, 5, 6

Cripps, Mr. C. A., *Gloucester, Stroud*
Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill, In Com. *June* 1, 68, 69, 72, 92, 93; *June* 2, 105, 121, 138; *June* 3, 207, 215, 221; *July* 5, 1128, 1155, 1168, 1173, 1177; *July* 6, 1277; *July* 8, 1393; *July* 12, 1613, 1630, 1663

Crombie, Mr. John W., *Kincardineshire*
Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill, In Com. *June* 2, 105, 113; *June* 3, 208

CROSS, Viscount (Lord Privy Seal)
Business of the House *June* 29, 722
Extraordinary Tithe Bill, 2R. *June* 29, 719
Poor Law Officers' Superannuation Act (1896) Amendment Bill, 2R. *July* 2, 948

Crown Lands, etc. (see Woods, Forests, and Land Revenues of the Crown)

CURZON, Right Hon. GEORGE N. (Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs), *Lancashire, S.W., Southport*
Arrest by Venezuelan Authorities *July* 5, 1112
China and Great Britain *July* 9, 1469
Constantinople, Peace Negotiations at *July* 8, 1364
Crete *June* 1, 12, 13, 14; *June* 3, 174, 175, 176, 190; *June* 28, 651; *July* 1, 873; *July* 2, 971, 972; *July* 5, 1113; *July* 6, 1217; *July* 8, 1351, 1352, 1353; *July* 9, 1470, 1471
Delagoa Bay
  Mozambique Company *July* 5, 1102
  Railway *July* 2, 957

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Curzon, Right Hon. G. N.—*cont.*
  Departmental Appointments, India *June* 25, 559
  Disappearance of a Traveller *July* 9, 1470
  Duty on Herrings *June* 1, 28
  Egyptian Political Prisoners *June* 28, 639
  Foreign Office Examinations *July* 8, 1349
  Hawaii Islands *June* 24, 506
  Illegal Trawling *July* 2, 954
  Morocco Ports, Consular Charges *July* 8, 1363
  Nile Expedition, Congolese Force *June* 25, 557
  Peace Negotiations at Constantinople *July* 8, 1364
  Queen's Reign
    Arabi Pacha *June* 17, 286
    Jubilee Procession *June* 21, 427
  Railways
    Delagoa Bay *July* 2, 957
    Uganda *June* 1, 20
  Red Sea Lights *July* 5, 1102, 1103
  Slavery in Zanzibar *June* 28, 649, 650
  Supply
    £64,876 for Colonial Services *June* 24, 546
    £238,212 for Diplomatic and Consular Services *June* 24, 517, 520, 526, 528, 530, 536, 543, 545; Report *June* 25, 626
  Thessaly *July* 2, 973
  Tokat Massacre *June* 1, 29; *June* 3, 181, 182; *July* 5, 1113; *July* 6, 1218
  Treaty with Abyssinia *July* 8, 1344
  Uganda Railway *June* 1, 20
  Uruguay *July* 6, 1214
  Wounding an English Sailor at Venice *June* 21, 435
  Zanzibar, Slavery in *June* 28, 649, 650

CUSTOMS, EXCISE, AND INLAND REVENUE
  Cocoa Butter, *Q.* Sir H. Vincent; *A.* Sir M. Hicks Beach *July* 9, 1451
  Customs Boatmen, *Q.* Mr. H. C. F. Luttrell; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 1, 869
  Death Duties
    Agricultural Rates, *Q.* Captain Pretyman; *A.* Sir M. Hicks Beach *June* 29, 742
    Deductions, *Q.* Sir G. Baden-Powell; *A.* Sir M. Hicks Beach *June* 21, 432
  Estate Duty, *Q.* Mr. Gibson Bowles; *A.* Sir M. Hicks Beach *June* 3, 178
  Excise Licences Bill (see that Title)
  Licences
    Patent, *Q.* Mr. F. Cawley; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 2, 954
    Publicans', *Dublin*, *Q.* Mr. P. O'Brien; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 2, 976
  Local Taxation Account, *Q.* Sir H. Fowler; *A.* Sir M. Hicks Beach *July* 1, 872
  Patent Licences, *Q.* Mr. F. Cawley; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 2, 954
  Publicans' Licences, *Dublin*, *Q.* Mr. P. O'Brien; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 2, 976

Daly, Mr. James, *Monaghan, S.*
  Board of Works, Ireland *July* 2, 964
  Deportation of Paupers *June* 29, 744
  Divisional Commissioner, Monaghan *July* 2, 951
  Irish
    Land Commission *June* 29, 731
    Mail Service *June* 29, 732

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Daly, Mr. James—*cont.*
  Land Transfer Bill, 2R. *July* 1, 943
  Mersey Docks Bill *July* 1, 872
  Metric System *June* 29, 733
  Monaghan
    Divisional Commissioner *July* 2, 951
    Magistracy *June* 25, 564
  National Schools
    Ireland *July* 2, 961
    Teachers' Pensions, Ireland *June* 29, 740
  Postal Facilities, Castleblaney, *June* 29, 733
  Royal Irish Constabulary *June* 29, 731
  Street Disturbances, Dublin *June* 25, 563; *July* 1, 861
  Supply
    £7,951 for Local Government Board (Scotland), Salaries and Expenses *June* 25, 585, 596, 598
    £630,291 for National Education, Ireland, *July* 2, 1000, 1007, 1008, 1010
    £137,137 for Public Works and Buildings, Ireland *July* 2, 991, 992
    £8,111 for Secretary for Scotland Office, Salaries and Expenses *June* 25, 568, 569, 570, 572

Dalziel, Mr. J. H., *Kirkcaldy Burghs*
  Adjournment of the House *June* 28, 682
  Business of the House, General *June* 17, 288
  Congested Districts (Scotland) Bill, In Com. *June* 29, 802, 804
  Foreign Prison-made Goods Bill *June* 28, 667, 670
  Message from the Queen *June* 29, 812
  Queen's Reign, Naval Review *June* 29, 738, 739
  Supply: £19,923 for Temporary Commissions, etc., Salaries and Expenses *June* 18, 377, 385

Dangerous Performances Bill
  c. In Com., R.P. *June* 3, 255

Darling, Mr. C. J., *Deptford*
  Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill, In Com. *June* 1, 71

Davitt, Mr. Michael, *Mayo, S,*
  Egyptian Political Prisoners *June* 28, 638, 639
  Irish Judiciary *July* 5, 1109
  Land Transfer Bill, 2R. *July* 1, 943
  Maryborough Prison, Patrick Conneely *June* 3, 176, 177
  Poona Outrages *July* 1, 863
  Prisoners
    Egyptian Political *June* 28, 638, 639
    Pretoria Reform, Release of *June* 24, 510
    Treason-felony *July* 1, 871; *July* 8, 1344
  Release of Pretoria Reform Prisoners *June* 24, 510
  Supply
    £137,137 for Public Works and Buildings, Ireland *July* 2, 989
    £26,247 for Public Works Office, Ireland *July* 9, 1511
  Treason-felony Prisoners *July* 1, 871; *July* 8, 1344

Denbigh, Earl of
  Tithe Rent-charge, Ireland *July* 12, 1551

DENNY, Colonel J. McA., *Kilmarnock Burghs*
  Queen's Reign, Colonial Troops *June* 28, 634
  Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill, In Com. *June* 1, 88; *June* 2, 107; *July* 5, 1144, 1179; *July* 6, 1234, 1238; *July* 8, 1389, 1404, 1424

Devonport Water Bill
  Royal Assent *June* 3, 149

DEVONSHIRE, DUKE OF (Lord President of the Council)
  Voluntary Schools Associations *July* 8, 1339; *July* 12, 1570, 1571, 1575, 1579

DICKSON-POYNDER, Sir JOHN P., Bart., *Wilts, Chippenham*
  Review at Aldershot *June* 21, 438

DIGBY, Mr. J. K. WINGFIELD- (see WINGFIELD-DIGBY)

DILKE, Right Hon. Sir CHARLES W., Bart., *Gloucester, Forest of Dean*
  Board of Trade *June* 3, 184
  British and Foreign Navies *June* 24, 498
  Brompton Cemetery *June* 29, 723
  Business of the House, General *June* 2, 146; *June* 29, 745; *July* 2, 977
  Chief Inspector of Factories, Report *July* 6, 1216
  China and Great Britain *July* 9, 1469
  Contempt of Court, St. Vincent *June* 18, 369
  Crete *June* 1, 13, 14; *June* 3, 187
  Dog Muzzling, Sheep Dogs *June* 21, 427
  Factory Acts, Fishing Industry *July* 5, 1094, 1095
  Horse and Field Artillery *July* 12, 1585
  Inns of Court Rifles *June* 28, 632
  Naval Works Loans Bill *June* 21, 436
  Nile Expedition, Congolese Force *June* 25, 557
  Plumbers Registration Bill *June* 30, 847, 848; *July* 7, 1320
  Slavery in Zanzibar *June* 28, 649, 650
  South Kensington Museum *June* 3, 153
  Supply
    £64,876 for Colonial Services *June* 24, 546, 547, 549, 550, 552
    £238,212 for Diplomatic and Consular Services, *June* 24, 511, 536
    £83,566 for Home Office, Salaries and Expenses *June* 18, 405, 411
    £313 for Miscellaneous, Charitable, and Other Allowances, Great Britain *June* 18, 373
    £19,923 for Temporary Commissions, etc., Salaries and Expenses *June* 18, 374, 384, 387
  Treaty with Abyssinia *July* 8, 1344
  Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill, In Com. *June* 1, 37, 48, 57, 71, 91, 92; *June* 2, 99, 122, 123, 124, 134, 138; *June* 3, 208, 215, 216, 223; *June* 4, 270, 273, 274; *July* 6, 1263, 1277; *July* 8, 1396; *July* 12, 1626, 1647, 1650, 1663, 1664, 1667, 1668

DILLON, Mr. JOHN, *Mayo, E.*
  Agricultural Rating Act *June* 29, 728
  Belfast Police Court Cells *June* 28, 641, 642
  Belfast Water Bill, 2R. *July* 1, 857
  Board of Works, Ireland *July* 2, 964
  Business of the House, General *June* 2, 147
  Catholic University Education, Ireland *July* 1, 873, 874
  Congested Districts (Scotland) Bill, In Com. *June* 29, 805
  Crete, *June* 1, 13; *June* 3, 174, 175, 189, 191, 194, 201; *July* 6, 1217; *July* 8, 1352, 1353; *July* 9, 1470, 1471
  Egypt *June* 3, 176
  Egyptian Political Prisoners *June* 28, 639
  Finance Bill, In Com. *June* 29, 745, 760
  Labourers' Cottages, Ireland *July* 1, 871
  Lunacy, Ireland *June* 29, 728
  National Schools, Ireland *July* 2, 961, 962
  Private Bill Legislation, Ireland *June* 1, 31
  Queen's Diamond Jubilee, Address to Her Majesty *June* 21, 446
  Street Disturbances, Dublin *June* 25, 563
  Supply
    £238,212 for Diplomatic and Consular Services *June* 24, 527, 528, 529, 530
    £7,951 for Local Government Board (Scotland), Salaries and Expenses *June* 25, 592, 593, 596
    £2,771 for Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, Household of *July* 2, 1034
    £630,291 for National Education, Ireland *July* 2, 995, 996, 1001, 1002, 1030; Report *July* 5, 1185, 1187
    £137,137 for Public Works and Buildings, Ireland *July* 2, 984, 985, 992
    £26,247 for Public Works Office, Ireland *July* 9, 1512, 1518, 1522
    £2,450 for Queen's Colleges, Ireland *July* 9, 1529
    £19,928 for Railways, Ireland *July* 2, 994, 995
    £8,111 for Secretary for Scotland Office, Salaries and Expenses *June* 25, 570
  Verminous Persons Bill, 3R. *July* 7, 1316, 1317

Discharged Prisoners' Aid Societies
  Earl Stanhope, 1037, 1043; Lord Norton, 1040; Lord Belper, 1042, 1043 *July* 5

DIXON-HARTLAND, Sir FREDERICK D., Bart., *Middlesex, Uxbridge*
  Queen's Reign, Illumination of St. Paul's *June* 3, 155, 156
  Southwark and Vauxhall Water Bill, *June* 24, 491

DONELAN, Captain A. J. C., *Cork, E.*
  Channel Fleet *July* 2, 975, 976
  Dingle Harbour, Kerry *June* 25, 558
  Floods, Kerry *July* 6, 1213
  Irish
    Land Commission *June* 3, 165
    Mail Service *July* 12, 1597
  Labourers' Cottages, Ireland *July* 1, 870, 871
  National School Teachers, Ireland *June* 21, 431
  Royal Irish Constabulary *June* 3, 181
  Supply: £26,247 for Public Works Office, Ireland *July* 9, 1516

Douglas, Right Hon. A. Akers- (see Akers-Douglas)

Dublin Corporation Bill

l. 3R., Earl of Mayo, 945; Earl of Morley, 946 *July* 2
Read 3ª and Passed *July* 2, 947
c. Lords' Amendts. Considered and Agreed to; Mr. W. Johnston *July* 8, 1341

DUDLEY, Earl of (Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade)

Fisheries Act Amendment Bill, 2R. *June* 3, 152
Merchant Shipping (Undermanning) Bill, 2R. *June* 29, 720

Dumfries and Maxwelltown Water Bill

Royal Assent *June* 3, 149

Duncombe, Hon. H. V., *Cumberland, Egremont*

Verminous Persons Bill, 3R. *July* 7, 1306

Dyke, Right Hon. Sir W. Hart, Bart., *Kent, Deptford*

Supply: £4,306,910 for Public Education, England and Wales *June* 17, 305

East India Company's Officers' Superannuation Bill

Royal Assent *June* 3, 149

Edinburgh Corporation Bill

Royal Assent *June* 3, 149

Edinburgh University (Transfer of Patronage) Bill

Royal Assent *June* 3, 149

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Lord President—Duke of Devonshire
Vice President—Sir John E. Gorst

Army Schoolmasters, Q. Mr. J. H. Yoxall; *A.* Mr. Brodrick *June* 3, 168
Berriew School Bill (see that Title)
Board Schools
  North Mundham, Church Catechism, Q. Mr. J. C. Williams; *A.* Sir J. Gorst *June* 28, 640
  Scotland, Q. Mr. J. Wilson (Falkirk); *A.* Mr. Graham Murray *July* 5, 1113
Catholic University Education, Ireland, Qs. Mr. J. Dillon; *As.* Mr. A. J. Balfour *July* 1, 873
Church Catechism, North Mundham Board School, Q. Mr. J. C. Williams; *A.* Sir J. Gorst *June* 28, 640
Cloughoula National School, Ireland, Qs. Mr. P. O'Brien; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour, Mr. Hanbury *July* 12, 1593

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EDUCATION DEPARTMENT—cont.

Colleges
  Queen's, Ireland, Qs. Mr. Lees Knowles; *As.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 8, 1342
  Science, of, Dublin, Qs. Mr. Swift MacNeill; *As.* Mr. Hanbury *June* 25, 560
Corporal Punishment, School, Scotland, Q. Sir C. Cameron; *A.* Mr. Graham Murray *June* 25, 565
Dublin, College of Science, Qs. Mr. Swift MacNeill; *As.* Mr. Hanbury *June* 25, 560
Education
  Department
    Report, School Maintenance, Q. Viscount Cranborne; *A.* Sir J. Gorst *July* 5, 1103
    Scotland, Q. Mr. E. Robertson; *A.* Mr. Graham Murray *July* 1, 858
  India, Q. Mr. H. J. Wilson; *A.* Lord G. Hamilton *June* 18, 370
  Ireland, Catholic University, Qs. Mr. J. Dillon; *As.* Mr. A. J. Balfour *July* 1, 873
Education Act, Associations, Q. Lord Warkworth; *A.* Sir J. Gorst *July* 2, 965
  (For Debate see Title Voluntary Schools Associations)
Education Endowments (Ireland) Act (1885) Amendment Bill (see that Title)
Education (Scotland) Bill (see that Title)
Elementary Education Act (1870) Amendment Bill, Q. Mr. R. B. Haldane; *A.* Mr. Graham Murray *June* 28, 645
Elementary School Teachers' Superannuation, Q. Mr. J. H. Yoxall; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour *June* 21, 437
Erasmus Smith Endowments, Q. Mr. T. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 12, 1595
India, Education, Q. Mr. H. J. Wilson; *A.* Lord G. Hamilton *June* 18, 370
Intermediate Education (see Title Education: Intermediate and Technical)
Metropolitan Asylums Board, Children's Committee, Q. Mr. E. H. Pickersgill; *A.* Mr. H. Chaplin *July* 8, 1364
National
  Education Board, Ireland, Qs. Mr. Vesey Knox, Mr. J. C. Flynn; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour, Mr. Hanbury *July* 8, 1353
  Schools, Ireland
    Cloughoula, Qs. Mr. P. O'Brien; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour, Mr. Hanbury *July* 12, 1593
    General, Qs. Mr. J. Daly, Mr. J. Dillon, Mr. G. Murnaghan, Mr. J. Gibney; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour, Mr. Hanbury *July* 2, 961
    Irish Language, Q. Mr. T. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 12, 1597
    Teachers' Pension Fund, Q. Mr. J. L. Carew; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *June* 4, 267. *Qs.* Dr. Tanner, Captain Donelan; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *June* 21, 430. *Q.* Mr. J. Daly; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *June* 29, 740
Queen's Colleges, Ireland, Qs. Mr. Lees Knowles; *As.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 8, 1342
St. Columba's Church Schools, Kingsland Road, Q. Mr. T. Owen; *A.* Sir J. Gorst *June* 3, 170

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EDUCATION DEPARTMENT—cont.

Schools

Berriew School Bill (see that Title)

Board

North Mundham, Church Catechism, *Q.* Mr. J. C. Williams; *A.* Sir J. Gorst *June* 28, 640

Scotland, *Q.* Mr. J. Wilson (Falkirk); *A.* Mr. Graham Murray *July* 5, 1113

Elementary, Teachers' Superannuation, *Q.* Mr. J. H. Yoxall; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour *June* 21, 437

Erasmus Smith Endowments, *Q.* Mr. T. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 12, 1595

Ireland

Fee Grant, *Q.* Mr. Vesey Knox; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 8, 1354

National

Cloughoula, *Qs.* Mr. P. O'Brien; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour, Mr. Hanbury *July* 12, 1593

General, *Qs.* Mr. J. Daly, Mr. J. Dillon, Mr. G. Murnaghan, Mr. J. Gibney; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour, Mr. Hanbury *July* 2, 961

Irish Language, *Q.* Mr. T. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 12, 1597

Teachers' Pensions, *Q.* Mr. J. L. Carew; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *June* 4, 267. *Qs.* Dr. Tanner, Captain Donelan; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *June* 21, 430. *Q.* Mr. J. Daly; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *June* 29, 740

Maintenance, Education Department Report, *Q.* Viscount Cranborne; *A.* Sir J. Gorst *July* 5, 1103

St. Columba's Church, Kingsland Road, *Q.* Mr. T. Owen; *A.* Sir J. Gorst *June* 3, 170

Science and Art, Nantwich, *Q.* Mr. H. J. Tollemache; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 1, 861

Scotland

Board, *Q.* Mr. J. Wilson (Falkirk); *A.* Mr. Graham Murray *July* 5, 1113

Corporal Punishment, *Q.* Sir C. Cameron; *A.* Mr. Graham Murray *June* 25, 565

South Metropolitan, Sutton, *Q.* Sir S. Montagu; *A.* Mr. H. Chaplin *July* 2, 970

Voluntary

Associations, *Q.* Mr. Wingfield-Digby; *A.* Sir J. Gorst *June* 18, 371. *Qs.* Lord Wantage, Lord Heneage, Viscount Portman; [*Obs.* Lord Halsbury;] *As.* Duke of Devonshire *July* 8, 1337 (For Debate see Title VOLUNTARY SCHOOLS ASSOCIATIONS)

Rate, Didsbury, *Q.* Mr. J. C. Williams; *A.* Mr. H. Chaplin *June* 28, 639

Schoolmasters, Army, *Q.* Mr. J. H. Yoxall; *A.* Mr. Brodrick *June* 3, 168

Science and Art

Grants, *Q.* Mr. J. Stuart; *A.* Sir J. Gorst *June* 29, 740

School, Nantwich, *Q.* Mr. H. J. Tollemache; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 1, 861

South Metropolitan School, Sutton, *Q.* Sir S. Montagu; *A.* Mr. H. Chaplin *July* 2, 970

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EDUCATION DEPARTMENT—cont.

Teachers

Pensions, National Schools (Ireland), *Q.* Mr. J. L. Carew; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *June* 4, 267. *Qs.* Dr. Tanner, Captain Donelan; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *June* 21, 430. *Q.* Mr. J. Daly; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *June* 29, 740

Superannuation

Elementary Schools, *Q.* Mr. J. H. Yoxall; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour *June* 21, 437

Legislation, *Q.* Mr. R. Ascroft; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour *July* 9, 1477

Teachers' (Ireland) Pension Act 1879, *Q.* Mr. T. M. Healy; *A.* Sir M. Hicks Beach *July* 9, 1452

Technical Education (see Title EDUCATION: INTERMEDIATE AND TECHNICAL)

Voluntary School Act 1897, *Q.* Sir J. T. Brunner; *A.* Sir J. Gorst *June* 3, 171

Voluntary Schools

Associations, *Q.* Mr. Wingfield-Digby; A. Sir J. Gorst *June* 18, 371. *Qs.* Lord Wantage, Lord Heneage, Viscount Portman; [*Obs.* Lord Halsbury;] *As.* Duke of Devonshire *July* 8, 1337 (For Debate see under Title VOLUNTARY SCHOOLS ASSOCIATIONS)

Rate, Didsbury, *Q.* Mr. J. C. Williams; *A.* Mr. H. Chaplin *June* 28, 639

Education Endowments (Ireland) Act (1885) Amendment Bill

c. In Com., Mr. W. Johnston, (*Motion*) 677, 678, 679; Mr. Vesey Knox, 677, 678, 680; Mr. G. Balfour, 677, 680; Mr. Gibson Bowles, 677, 678; [Chairman, 678, 679;] (*Division*, 678;) Lord Hugh Cecil, 679; Mr. A. Hopkinson, 679; Mr. G. W. Wolff, 680 *June* 28

Education, Intermediate and Technical

Intermediate Examinations, Ireland, *Q.* Mr. W. Johnston; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *June* 21, 438

Technical, Ireland, *Q.* Mr. W. Field; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 9, 1472

Education (Scotland) Bill

c. Mr. C. B. Renshaw, 256; Mr. J. P. Smith, 256; Mr. J. Caldwell, 256; Mr. A. J. Balfour, 256 *June* 3

In Com., Mr. Graham Murray, (*Motion for Grants*) 458, 460, 461, 462, 470; Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, 460, 461; Sir C. Cameron, 462; Dr. G. B. Clark, 463, 465; Sir M. Hicks Beach, 464, 465; Mr. J. Bryce, 466; Mr. J. P. Smith, 467; Mr. J. Caldwell, 468, 471; Mr. R. Souttar, 472; Reso. to be Rep. *June* 21

Reso. Rep. and Agreed to *June* 24, 556

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Education (Scotland) Bill—cont.
2R., Mr. Graham Murray, 876, 895, 896, 897, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904; Mr. T. Shaw, (*Amendt.*) 876, 880, 896, 904; Mr. A. O'Connor, 880, 892; Mr. Hedderwick, 883, 902; Mr. Orr-Ewing, 885; Mr. R. Souttar, 886; Mr. J. A. Campbell, 888; Mr. R. B. Haldane, 893, 896; Mr. T. R. Buchanan, 897; Dr. G. B. Clark, 899, 908; Mr. A. H. D. Acland, 901; Mr. A. J. Mundella, 903; Sir W. Harcourt, 904; Mr. A. D. Provand, 907; Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, 910; Mr. A. Wylie, 914; Sir R. T. Reid, 915; Sir M. Hicks Beach, 915; (*Division*, 916) *July* 1
Read 2° *July* 1, 916

EDWARDS, General Sir J. BEVAN, *Hythe*
Nile Expedition *July* 5, 1098

Egypt
Grant in Aid, Q. Mr. J. Dillon; *A.* Sir M. Hicks Beach *June* 3, 176
Political Prisoners, Qs. Mr. M. Davitt, Mr. J. Dillon, Mr. Gibson Bowles; *As.* Mr. Curzon *June* 28, 638

Electric Lighting Acts Amendment Bill
c. Intro., Mr. J. Tully; Read 1° *June* 1, 32

Elementary Education Act (1870) Amendment Bill
Royal Assent *June* 3, 149

Elementary Education (Continuation Schools) Bill
c. Intro., Mr. S. Smith; Read 1° *June* 1, 32

ELLIS, Mr. J. E., *Notts, Rushcliffe*
Experiments on Living Animals *July* 8, 1341
Plumbers' Registration Bill *June* 30, 837
Railway Maps *June* 18, 362

ELLIS, Mr. T. E., *Merionethshire*
Supply: £4,306,910 for Public Education, England and Wales *June* 17, 341, 342

Epsom Downs Extension Railway Bill
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ERNE, Earl of
Tithe Rent-charge, Ireland *July* 12, 1552

ESMONDE, Sir T. H. GRATTAN, Bart., *Kerry, W.*
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ESMONDE, Sir T. H. GRATTAN—*cont.*
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Local Taxation, Ireland *June* 29, 734
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Naval Pensions, Michael Saunders *July* 9, 1459
Supply
£630,291 for National Education, Ireland; Report *July* 5, 1186
£604,933 for Public Education, Scotland; Report *June* 29, 790
£137,137 for Public Works and Buildings, Ireland *July* 2, 981
£19,923 for Temporary Commissions, etc., Salaries and Expenses; Report *July* 5, 1190

EVANS, Sir FRANCIS H., *Southampton*
Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill, In Com. *June* 1, 51, 93; *June* 2, 98; *June* 3, 221, 233, 234, 235

Excise Licences Bill
l. 2R., Viscount Peel *June* 3, 151
Read 2ª; Referred to Joint Com. on Statute Law Revision Bills and Consolidation Bills; and Message Sent to Commons to Acquaint them therewith *June* 3, 151

Extraordinary Tithe Bill
c. In Com., Mr. T. Lough, 282; Mr. W. Long, 282, 283; Mr. L. Hardy, 283; Mr. J. C. Williams, 283 *June* 4
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l. Read 1ª *June* 18, 361
2R., Viscount Cross *June* 29, 719
Read 2ª and com. to Com. of Whole House *June* 29, 719
In Com., Rep. without Amendt. and re-com. to Standing Com. *July* 2, 948
Rep. without Amendt. *July* 6, 1197
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FARQUHARSON, Dr. R., *Aberdeenshire, W.*
Business of the House, General *June* 17, 288
Congested Districts (Scotland) Grants *June* 17, 357
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Plumbers Registration Bill *June* 30, 827
Public Health (Scotland) Bill *June* 28, 652
Recruits, Foot Guards *July* 9, 1466
Supply: £604,933 for Public Education, Scotland *June* 25, 605
Tate Gallery of British Art *July* 12, 1591
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FARRELL, Mr. J. P., *Cavan, W.*
Cavan and Leitrim Light Railway *July* 9, 1474
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FENWICK, Mr. CHARLES, *Northumberland, Wansbeck*
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Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill, In Com. *June* 1, 54, 72, 87; *July* 6, 1228, 1229, 1231, 1238, 1239, 1244, 1256, 1271; *July* 12, 1640, 1643, 1646, 1674

FERGUSON, Mr. R. C. M., *Leith Burghs*
Congested Districts (Scotland) Bill, In Com. *July* 1, 923, 930
Supply
  £27,323 for Fishery Board, Scotland *June* 25, 584
  £17,500 for Highlands and Islands of Scotland (Public Works and Communications) *June* 25, 621

FERGUSSON, Right Hon. Sir J., Bart., *Manchester, N.E.*
Finance Bill, In Com. *June* 29, 757
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Queen's Diamond Jubilee, Address to Her Majesty *June* 21, 456
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FFRENCH, Mr. P., *Wexford, S.*
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FIELD, Admiral, *Sussex, Eastbourne*
Queen's Reign
  Jubilee Procession *June* 1, 17; *June* 3, 159, 160
  Naval Review *June* 1, 16

FIELD, Mr. W., *Dublin, St. Patrick*
Army Forage Supplies, Ireland *July* 8, 1357
Dublin Metropolitan Police *July* 9, 1471
Fever Outbreak, Belmullet Union *July* 9, 1472
Illegal Trawling, Galway Bay *July* 6, 1220
Light Railways, Ireland *July* 8, 1357
Mersey Dock and Harbour Board Bill, 3R. *July* 5, 1086
Post Office Duty *July* 8, 1365
Street Disturbances, Dublin *July* 6, 1221
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Rep. with Amendts. *June* 29, 786
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l. Read 1ª *July* 6, 1205
Read 2ª, Com. negatived *July* 9, 1449
Read 3ª and Passed *July* 12, 1580

Financial Relations Between Great Britain and Ireland (see MISCELLANEOUS QUESTIONS)

FINLAY, SIR ROBERT B. (Solicitor General), *Inverness Burghs*
Finance Bill, In Com. *June* 29, 785

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l. 2R., Earl of Dudley *June* 3, 152
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Read 3ª and Passed *July* 2, 949
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FLANNERY, Mr. J. FORTESCUE, *Yorkshire, W. R., Shipley*
London and India Docks Joint Committee *June* 24, 508
National Telephone Company *July* 12, 1585
Supply: £7,951 for Local Government Board (Scotland), Salaries and Expenses *June* 25, 588

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2R. negatived *July* 6, 1205

Flynn, Mr. J. C., *Cork, N.*
Crete *June* 1, 12; *June* 3, 175; *July* 2, 971, 972; *July* 5, 1112; *July* 8, 1351
Irish Land Commission *July* 8, 1361
Kinsale Pier *July* 9, 1465
National Education Board, Ireland *July* 8, 1353
Supply
  £2,771 for Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, Household of *July* 2, 1035
  £630,291 for National Education, Ireland *July* 2, 1006, 1033
  £26,247 for Public Works Office, Ireland *July* 9, 1515, 1520
Tokat Massacre *June* 1, 29; *June* 3, 181; *July* 5, 1113; *July* 6, 1218
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FOREIGN OFFICE
Secretary of State—Marquess of Salisbury
Under Secretary of State—Mr. G. N. Curzon
Abyssinia, Treaty with, Qs. Sir C. Dilke, Mr. T. W. Legh; *As.* Mr. Curzon *July* 8, 1344
Arabi Pacha, Release of, Queen's Reign, Qs. Sir W. Lawson; *As.* Mr. Curzon *June* 17, 286
Arrest by Venezuelan Authorities, Q. Sir C. Cameron; *A.* Mr. Curzon *July* 5, 1112
China and Great Britain, Qs. Captain Norton, Sir C. Dilke; *As.* Mr. Curzon *July* 9, 1469
Constantinople, Peace Negotiations at, Q. Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; *A.* Mr. Curzon *July* 8, 1364
Consular Charges, Morocco Ports, Q. Sir A. B. Forwood; *A.* Mr. Curzon *July* 8, 1362
Crete
  Autonomy, Q. Mr. J. Bryce; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour *June* 1, 12. *Q.* Mr. Hedderwick; *A.* Mr. Curzon *July* 1, 873
  Blockade, Cost of, Qs. Mr. H. J. Gladstone; *As.* Mr. Curzon *June* 1, 11
  Disorder in, Qs. Mr. J. C. Flynn, Mr. J. Dillon; *As.* Mr. Curzon *June* 3, 175. *Qs.* Mr. J. Dillon; *As.* Mr. Curzon *July* 9, 1470
  Dispatches, Publication of, Qs. Mr. J. Dillon, Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; *As.* Mr. Curzon *June* 3, 174
  General, Qs. Mr. J. C. Flynn, Mr. J. Dillon; *As.* Mr. Curzon *July* 8, 1351
  Governor, Choice of, Q. Mr. J. C. Flynn; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour *June* 1, 12
  Insurgent Forces, Q. Sir C. Dilke; *A.* Mr. Curzon *June* 1, 14
  Mohammedan Sorties, Qs. Mr. J. C. Flynn, Sir C. Dilke, Mr. J. Dillon, Captain Pirie; [Mr. Speaker;] *As.* Mr. Curzon *June* 1, 12
  Raiding, Q. Mr. Swift MacNeill; *A.* Mr. Curzon *June* 28, 651. *Qs.* Mr. J. C. Flynn, Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; *As.* Mr. Curzon *July* 2, 971. *Q.* Mr. J. C. Flynn; *A.* Mr. Curzon *July* 5, 1112
  Turkish Troops, Conveyance of, Q. Mr. J. Dillon; *A.* Mr. Curzon *July* 6, 1217
Delagoa Bay
  Arbitration, Q. Earl of Mayo; [*Obs.* Earl of Kimberley;] *A.* Marquess of Salisbury *July* 8, 1340
  Mozambique Company, Q. Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; *A.* Mr. Curzon *July* 5, 1101
  Railway, Q. Mr. A. M. Brookfield; *A.* Mr. Curzon *July* 2, 957

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Disappearance of a Traveller, Q. Mr. J. Howard; *A.* Mr. Curzon *July* 9, 1470
Duty on Herrings, Q. Mr. J. G. Weir; *A.* Mr. Curzon *June* 1, 27
Egypt
  Grant in Aid, Q. Mr. J. Dillon; *A.* Sir M. Hicks Beach *June* 3, 176
  Political Prisoners, Qs. Mr. M. Davitt, Mr. J. Dillon, Mr. Gibson Bowles; *As.* Mr. Curzon *June* 28, 638
Examinations, Q. Sir W. Lawson; *A.* Mr. Curzon *July* 8, 1348
Hawaii Islands, Q. Mr. E. W. Beckett; *A.* Mr. Curzon *June* 24, 506
Herrings, Duty on, Q. Mr. J. G. Weir; *A.* Mr. Curzon *June* 1, 27
Illegal Trawling, Qs. Mr. Hedderwick, Mr. J. G. Weir; *As.* Mr. G. J. Goschen, Mr. Curzon, Mr. Graham Murray *July* 2, 954
Massacre at Tokat, Qs. Mr. J. C. Flynn; *As.* Mr. Curzon *June* 1, 29. *Qs.* Mr. J. C. Flynn, Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; *As.* Mr. Curzon *June* 3, 181. *Qs.* Mr. J. C. Flynn; *As.* Mr. Curzon *July* 5, 1113; *July* 6, 1218
Morocco Ports, Consular Charges, Q. Sir A. B. Forwood; *A.* Mr. Curzon *July* 8, 1362
Nile Expedition, Congolese Force, Q. Sir C. Dilke; *A.* Mr. Curzon *June* 25, 557
Peace Negotiations, Constantinople, Q. Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; *A.* Mr. Curzon *July* 8, 1364
Red Sea Lights, Qs. Sir J. Fergusson; *As.* Mr. Curzon *July* 5, 1102
Slavery in Zanzibar, Qs. Sir C. Dilke, Mr. J. A. Pease; *As.* Mr. Curzon, Sir R. Webster *June* 28, 649
Thessaly, Qs. Mr. Gibson Bowles; *As.* Mr. Curzon *July* 2, 972
Tokat Massacre (see Armenia)
Treaty with Abyssinia, Qs. Sir C. Dilke, Mr. T. W. Legh; *As.* Mr. Curzon *July* 8, 1344
Turkey and Greece, Qs. Lord Connemara; [*Obs.* Earl of Kimberley;] *As.* Marquess of Salisbury *July* 6, 1206
Uganda Railway, Q. Mr. R. W. Perks; *A.* Mr. Curzon *June* 1, 20
Uruguay, Q. Mr. P. Ffrench; *A.* Mr. Curzon *July* 6, 1213
Venice, Wounding an English Sailor at, Q. Mr. W. S. Robson; *A.* Mr. Curzon *June* 21, 434
Wounding an English Sailor at Venice, Q. Mr. W. S. Robson; *A.* Mr. Curzon *June* 21, 434
Zanzibar, Slavery in, Qs. Sir C. Dilke, Mr. J. A. Pease; *As.* Mr. Curzon, Sir R. Webster *June* 28, 649

Foreign Prison-made Goods Bill
c. Debate Resumed on Motion, That Bill be committed to Standing Com. on Trade, etc.: Mr. J. H. Dalziel, 667, 670; Mr. R. B. Haldane, 668; [Mr. Speaker, 668;] Mr. Gibson Bowles, 669; Mr. A. J. Balfour, 669, 670; (*Motion withdrawn*, 670) *June* 28
Committed to Com. of Whole House *June* 28, 670

FORWOOD, Right Hon. Sir A. B., Bart., *Lancashire, S.W., Ormskirk*
- Cattle-carrying Regulations *July* 5, 1103, 1104
- Commemoration Service in St. Margaret's Church *June* 17, 292
- Mersey Dock and Harbour Board Bill, 3R. *July* 5, 1088
- Morocco Ports and Consular Charges *July* 8, 1362
- Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill *July* 5, 1142, 1167, 1177, 1180, 1181; *July* 8, 1407, 1417, 1419

FOSTER, Mr. H. S., *Suffolk, Lowestoft*
- Supply: £4,306,910 for Public Education, England and Wales *June* 17, 337
- Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill *July* 5, 1143; *July* 6, 1259; *July* 8, 1408, 1409, 1411, 1433

FOSTER, Sir B. WALTER, *Derby, Ilkeston*
- Administration of Oath, England *July* 6, 1223
- Plumbers Registration Bill *June* 30, 845, 850

FOWLER, Right Hon. Sir HENRY H., *Wolverhampton, E.*
- Chaff-cutting Machines (Accidents) Bill *July* 9, 1476
- Footpaths in Hyde Park and St. James's Park *June* 29, 743
- Local
  - Government Electors *June* 29, 743
  - Taxation
    - Account *July* 1, 872
    - Royal Commission *June* 1, 29
- Plumbers' Registration Bill *July* 7, 1325
- Queen's Reign, Constabulary Force *June* 24, 505
- Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill, In Com. *June* 1, 36

GEDGE, Mr. SYDNEY, *Walsall*
- Land Transfer Bill, 2R. *July* 1, 939
- Parliamentary Franchise (Extension to Women) Bill *July* 6, 1210
- Petition, Typewritten *July* 7, 1297
- Plumbers' Registration Bill *June* 30, 827, 828
- Supply: £238,212 for Diplomatic and Consular Services *June* 24, 537; Report *June* 25, 626
- Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill, In Com. *June* 1, 74; *June* 2, 140; *July* 5, 1138, 1139, 1140, 1141, 1144, 1147, 1177; *July* 6, 1282; *July* 8, 1397; *July* 12, 1621, 1673

GEORGE, Mr. D. LLOYD (see LLOYD-GEORGE)

GIBBS, Hon. VICARY; *Herts, St. Albans*
- Finance Bill, In Com. *June* 29, 781
- Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill *July* 5, 1141; *July* 8, 1427

GIBNEY, Mr. JAMES, *Meath, N.*
- National Schools, Ireland *July* 2, 963

GILES, Mr. C. T., *Cambridge, Wisbech*
- Cattle Food *June* 3, 172
- Southwark and Vauxhall Water Bill *June* 24, 495

GILHOOLY, Mr. JAMES, *Cork, W.*
- Bantry Pier *July* 6, 1222
- Fairs and Market Tolls, Bantry, Cork *July* 5, 1099
- Petty Officers (Naval) Drowned *July* 5, 1099
- Supply: £26,247 for Public Works Office, Ireland *July* 9, 1516

GLADSTONE, Right Hon. HERBERT J., *Leeds, W.*
- Crete *June* 1, 11, 12

Glasgow Harbour Tunnel Company Bill
- Royal Assent *June* 3, 149

GLENESK, Lord
- Poor Law Officers Superannuation Act (1896) Amendment Bill, 2R. *July* 2, 948

GODDARD, Mr. D. F., *Ipswich*
- Plumbers' Registration Bill *June* 30, 842
- Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill *July* 12, 1653

GOLDSWORTHY, General WALTER T., *Hammersmith*
- Post Office Establishments *June* 29, 724

GORST, RIGHT HON. SIR JOHN E. (Vice President of the Council), *Cambridge University*
- Church Catechism, North Mundham Board School *June* 28, 640
- Education
  - Act, Associations *July* 2, 966
  - Department Report, School Maintenance *July* 5, 1103
- St. Columba's Church Schools, Kingsland Road *June* 3, 171
- Science and Art Grants *June* 29, 740
- Supply: £4,306,910 for Public Education, England and Wales *June* 17, 293, 296, 298, 315, 318, 331, 338, 340, 345, 347, 348, 349
- Voluntary Schools *June* 18, 371
- Voluntary Schools Act (1897) *June* 3, 172

GOSCHEN, RIGHT HON. GEORGE J. (First Lord of the Admiralty), *St. George's, Hanover Square*
- Atlantic, Reported Dangerous Rock *July* 2, 966
- British Navy, Gift of Ironclad by Cape Colony *July* 12, 1601
- Channel Fleet *July* 2, 975, 976
- Illegal Trawling *July* 1, 865; *July* 2, 954

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    Hospitals *June* 21, 431
    Manœuvres *June* 21, 430
    Regulations *July* 6, 1222
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    Naval Review *June* 18, 365; *June* 21, 424, 425, 426
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GOULDING, Mr. E. A., *Wilts, Devizes*
  Waterford Dungarvan and Lismore Railway *June* 24, 501

GOURLEY, Colonel Sir E. T., *Sunderland*
  Naval Manœuvres *June* 21, 429
  Poona Outrages *July* 5, 1118
  Queen's Reign, Crimean and Indian Veterans *June* 4, 264

GRAY, Mr. ERNEST, *West Ham, N.*
  Supply: £4,306,910 for Public Education, England and Wales *June* 17, 319, 321

Great Eastern Railway (Lowestoft Harbour) Bill
  Royal Assent *June* 3, 149

Great Eastern Railway (New Lines) Bill
  Royal Assent *June* 3, 149

Great Northern Railway Bill
  Royal Assent *June* 3, 149

Great Western Railway (Truro and Newquay Railway) Bill
  Royal Assent *June* 3, 149

GRIFFITH, Mr. ELLIS J., *Anglesey*
  Berriew School Bill, 3R. *June* 29, 792
  Supply
    £4,306,910 for Public Education, England and Wales *June* 17, 343
    £604,933 for Public Education, Scotland; Report *June* 29, 790

GULL, Sir W. CAMERON, Bart., *Devonshire, Barnstaple*
  Queen's Reign, Naval Review *July* 1, 868

HALDANE, Mr. R. B., *Haddington*
  Education (Scotland) Bill, 2R. *July* 1, 893, 896
  Elementary Education Act (1870) Amendment Bill *June* 28, 645
  Foreign Prison-made Goods Bill *June* 28, 668
  Land Transfer Bill, 2R. *June* 28, 674; *July* 1, 939, 941
  Supply: £27,323 for Fishery Board, Scotland *June* 25, 582
  Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill, In Com. *June* 1, 66, 69, 70; *June* 2, 121; *June* 3, 225, 249; *July* 5, 1140, 1147, 1149, 1150, 1172; *July* 6, 1235, 1255, 1259

HALSBURY, LORD (Lord Chancellor)
  Business of the House *June* 18, 362
  Floods Prevention Bill, 2R. *July* 6, 1202
  Indian Judicature *July* 9, 1441
  Local Government, Ireland *June* 1, 4
  Lunacy Bill, 2R. *July* 9, 1449, 1450
  Queen's Diamond Jubilee
    Address to Her Majesty *June* 23, 481
    Answer to Address *June* 29, 685
    Message from Italian Senate *June* 29, 685
  Sunday Bill, 2R. *June* 29, 717
  Voluntary Schools Associations *July* 8, 1338

HAMILTON, RIGHT HON. LORD GEORGE F. (Secretary of State for India), *Middlesex, Ealing*
  British Army in India *July* 9, 1470
  Calcutta Riots *July* 9, 1465
  Chitpur Disturbances *July* 5, 1114
  Earthquake
    Assam *July* 9, 1467
    India *June* 24, 510
  Education, India *June* 18, 370
  Famine in India *July* 1, 873
  Indian
    Financial Statement *June* 3, 173
    Loans *July* 2, 965
    Railways *June* 24, 502; *June* 28, 644
  Military Equipment, India *June* 1, 24
  Murder at Poona *June* 24, 510
  Plague
    Bombay *June* 1, 26
    India *July* 5, 1119, 1123
  Poona
    Murder at *June* 24, 510
    Outrages *July* 1, 863, 864, 865; *July* 2, 958, 959, 960; *July* 5, 1118; *July* 9, 1461, 1462; *July* 12, 1590, 1591
  Queen's Reign
    Jubilee Expenses *June* 24, 503
    Jubilee Procession *June* 3, 157
  Silver Imports, India *June* 1, 27
  State of Jhalawar *July* 12, 1594
  Sterling Loan, India *July* 9, 1467
  Wreck, Indian Troopship *Warren Hastings* *July* 12, 1589

HANBURY, RIGHT HON. R. W. (Financial Secretary to the Treasury), *Preston*
  Board of Works, Ireland *July* 2, 964, 965
  Business of the House, Supply: Post Office Estimates *June* 21, 436

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HANBURY, Right Hon. R. W.—*cont.*

- Castlebar Post Office *July* 5, 1124
- Cavan and Leitrim Light Railway *July* 9, 1474
- Civil Service, Second Division Clerks *June* 3, 176
- Clones Post Office *July* 1, 859
- Cloughoula National School, Ireland *July* 12, 1594
- College of Science, Dublin *June* 25, 561
- Cork Post Office *July* 9, 1458
- Covent Garden Market *June* 3, 180
- Customs Boatmen *July* 1, 869
- Delivery of Telegrams
  - Insufficient Addresses *June* 3, 155
  - Nottingham *June* 28, 631
- Donegal Railway *July* 8, 1355
- Great Northern Railway Company of Ireland *July* 2, 953
- Historical Manuscripts Commission *June* 21, 434
- Irish
  - Mail Service *June* 1, 23; *June* 29, 732, 733; *July* 2, 951; *July* 5, 1105; *July* 8, 1344; *July* 9, 1453, 1454, 1455; *July* 12, 1597
  - Tourist Traffic *July* 6, 1218
- Jubilee Medals *July* 5, 1106; *July* 9, 1457
- Kinsale Pier *July* 9, 1464, 1465
- Letter-boxes *June* 21, 432
- Life Assurance Companies Act (1870) *July* 12, 1596
- National
  - Portrait Gallery *July* 8, 1346
  - Schools
    - Ireland *July* 2, 962
    - Teachers, Ireland *June* 4, 267
  - Telephone Company *July* 12, 1585
- Nottingham
  - Delivery of Telegrams *June* 28, 631
  - Postal Service *June* 3, 167
- Parcel Post Facilities *July* 5, 1100
- Parish Councils, Scotland *June* 3, 180; *July* 1, 860
- Parliamentary Debates *June* 21, 439
- Patent Licences *July* 2, 955
- Postage
  - Foreign Letters *June* 18, 370, 371
  - Rates *July* 12, 1583
- Postal
  - Arrangements, Somerset *July* 5, 1100
  - Delivery, Ireland *July* 2, 974
  - Facilities
    - Castleblaney *June* 29, 733
    - Gulladuff, Derry *July* 6, 1217
    - Lewis *July* 1, 866
    - Scotland *July* 5, 1116, 1117
  - Reforms *July* 8, 1346
  - Service, Nottingham *June* 3, 167
  - Telegraph Offices, Scotland *June* 4, 261
  - Union Congress *June* 29, 736
- Postmen, Rural *June* 24, 506
- Post Office
  - Book Post Regulations *July* 6, 1216
  - Brilley, Hereford *July* 2, 956
  - Castlebar *July* 5, 1124
  - Clones *July* 1, 859
  - Cork *July* 9, 1458
  - Cycles *June* 29, 735
  - Dundalk *July* 6, 1217
  - Duty *July* 8, 1365
  - Establishments *June* 1, 8, 9; *June* 4, 262: *June* 29, 725; *July* 2, 953; *July* 5, 1107

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HANBURY, Right Hon. R. W.—*cont.*

- Post Office
  - Guide *June* 3, 183
  - Leave of Absence *June* 21, 433
  - Omagh *July* 6, 1219
  - Savings Bank *July* 9, 1468
  - Secretary *June* 1, 21
  - Sorters *June* 21, 436
  - Telephone Exchanges *June* 24, 499; *July* 9, 1475
  - Thurles, Tipperary *June* 24, 500
  - Weston-super-Mare *June* 3, 173
- Post Office (Sites) Bill, 2R. *June* 21, 478
- Quarantine *June* 1, 15
- Queen's Colleges, Ireland *July* 8, 1343
- Queen's Reign
  - Charges for Telegrams *July* 1, 868
  - Jubilee Day *June* 21, 423
  - Jubilee Expenses *June* 24, 505
  - Letters for Chelsea Barracks *June* 24, 504
- Revenue and Expenditure, Irish Estimates *June* 29, 730
- Rural Postmen *June* 24, 506
- St. Michael's Church, Skellig Michael, Kerry *July* 5, 1115
- Science and Art School, Nantwich *July* 1, 861
- Stationery *June* 1, 24
- Steamer Communication, Highlands and Islands, Scotland *July* 2, 957
- Sub-Postmasters, Delivery of Telegrams *June* 28, 641
- Supply
  - £771,000 for Customs Department, Salaries and Expenses; Report *June* 25, 627
  - £1,721,272 for Inland Revenue Department, Salaries and Expenses; Report *June* 25, 628
  - £813 for Miscellaneous Charitable and Other Allowances, Great Britain *June* 18, 373
  - £3,279 for Miscellaneous Expenses *June* 18, 388, 389
  - £630,291 for National Education, Ireland *July* 2, 996
  - £7,434 for National Gallery *June* 17, 352; Report *June* 18, 416
  - £3,613 for National Portrait Gallery *June* 17 353
  - £137,137 for Public Works and Buildings, Ireland *July* 2, 985, 987, 989, 990, 992
  - £26,247 for Public Works Office, Ireland *July* 9, 1492, 1493, 1494, 1495, 1497, 1519, 1520, 1521, 1523
  - £19,928 for Railways, Ireland *July* 2, 995
  - £19,923 for Temporary Commissions, etc., Salaries and Expenses *June* 18, 374, 378, 380, 382, 384, 387; Report *July* 5, 1188, 1190, 1192
  - £60,672 for Treasury *June* 18, 401, 403, 405
- Tate Gallery of British Art *July* 12, 1591
- Telegrams
  - Charges for *July* 1, 868
  - Delivery of
    - Insufficient Addresses *June* 3, 155
    - Nottingham *June* 28, 631
    - Sub-Postmasters *June* 28, 641
  - Re-directed *June* 4, 263
- Telegraph
  - Charges *July* 12, 1587, 1588
  - Communication, England and Ireland *July* 9, 1473
  - Facilities, Kilkenny *June* 3, 167

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HANBURY, Right Hon. R. W.—*cont.*
- Telegraph—*cont.*
  - Offices, Scotland *June* 4, 261
  - Service, Scotland *June* 3, 171
- Telephone
  - Exchanges *June* 24, 499; *July* 9, 1475
  - National, Company *July* 12, 1585
  - Trunk Lines *June* 21, 431
- Waterford, Dungarvan, and Lismore Railway *June* 24, 502; *July* 2, 975; *July* 8, 1356
- Westport Guardians, Loan *July* 9, 1468
- Wicklow Harbour Loan *July* 2, 955; *July* 9, 1471
- Wreck of *S.S. Aden July* 2, 956

HARCOURT, Right Hon. Sir W. VERNON, *Monmouthshire, W.*
- Business of the House, General *July* 2, 977; *July* 8, 1366; *July* 12, 1602
- Education (Scotland) Bill, 2R. *July* 1, 904
- Finance Bill, In Com., *June* 29, 762, 767, 769, 773
- Poona Outrages *July* 2, 959
- Queen's Diamond Jubilee, Address to Her Majesty *June* 21, 443; *June* 23, 484
- Supply: £60,672 for Treasury *June* 18, 395, 396, 398, 399
- Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill *July* 8, 1377; *July* 12, 1618

HARDY, Mr. LAURENCE, *Kent, Ashford*
- Extraordinary Tithe Bill, In Com., *June* 4, 283
- Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill *July* 6, 1244; *July* 12, 1607, 1620

HARRISON, Mr. CHARLES, *Plymouth*
- Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill, In Com. *June* 1, 55, 56; *June* 2, 114; *July* 12, 1636

HART DYKE, Right Hon. Sir W., Bart. (see DYKE)

HASLETT, Sir JAMES H., *Belfast, N.*
- Supply: £630,291 for National Education, Ireland *July* 2, 1008

HAVELOCK-ALLAN, General Sir H. M., Bart., *Durham, S.E.*
- Queen's Reign, Jubilee Procession *June* 18, 366

HAZELL, Mr. WALTER, *Leicester*
- Commission to Professions *July* 5, 1101
- Muzzling Dogs, Leicester *June* 24, 499
- Parcel Post Facilities *July* 5, 1100
- Telephone Exchange *June* 24, 498
- Verminous Persons Bill, 3R. *July* 7, 1298, 1305, 1309
- Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill, In Com. *June* 1, 86

HEALY, Mr. TIMOTHY M., *Louth, N.*
- Business of the House, General *July* 2, 978
- Civil Bill Courts, Ireland *July* 12, 1589
- County Cess, Ireland *July* 2, 969, 970
- Erasmus Smith Endowments *July* 12, 1595

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HEALY, Mr. TIMOTHY M.—*cont.*
- Evictions, Ireland *July* 12, 1581, 1582
- Franchise, Ireland *July* 5, 1112
- Irish Mail Service *July* 9, 1453, 1454
- Jubilee Medals *July* 5, 1106
- Land Law Acts (Ireland), Royal Commission *July* 9, 1478, 1479
- National Schools, Ireland *July* 12, 1597
- Pilotage Provisional Order Bill *July* 5, 1091, 1092
- Plague Bacillus, India *July* 12, 1586
- Postal Facilities, Gulladuff, Derry *July* 6, 1217
- Post Office, Dundalk *July* 6, 1217
- Rosslare Railway, Apology *July* 12, 1580
- Royal Irish Constabulary *July* 2, 967, 968, 969
- Supply
  - £2,771 for Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, Household of *July* 2, 1035
  - £630,291 for National Education, Ireland *July* 2, 995, 997, 999, 1016, 1017
  - £137,137 for Public Works and Buildings, Ireland *July* 2, 982, 989
  - £26,247 for Public Works Office, Ireland *July* 9, 1484, 1493, 1495, 1502, 1523
  - £19,928 for Railways, Ireland *July* 2, 995
- Teachers' (Ireland) Pension Act (1879) *July* 9, 1452

HEATH, Mr. JAMES, *Staffordshire, N.W.*
- Poona Outrages *July* 1, 862

HEATON, Mr. J. HENNIKER, *Canterbury*
- Board of Trade *June* 3, 184
- Covent Garden Market *June* 3, 180
- Parliamentary Debates *June* 21, 439
- Postage
  - Foreign Letters *June* 18, 370, 371
  - Rates *July* 12, 1582, 1583
- Postal Union Congress *June* 29, 735, 736
- Post Office
  - Book Post Regulations *July* 6, 1215, 1216
  - Cycles *June* 29, 735
- Quarantine *June* 1, 15

HEDDERWICK, Mr. T. C. H., *Wick Burghs*
- Congested Districts (Scotland) Bill, In Com. *June* 29, 795, 806; *July* 1, 923
- Congested Districts, Scotland, Grants *June* 17, 356
- Crete *July* 1, 873
- Education (Scotland) Bill, 2R. *July* 1, 883, 902
- Illegal Trawling, Scottish Waters *June* 28, 648; *July* 2, 954
- Prison System, Scotland *July* 1, 869; *July* 12, 1595
- Scottish Prison Officials *June* 29, 741
- Supply
  - £27,323 for Fishery Board, Scotland *June* 25, 573
  - £17,500 for Highlands and Islands of Scotland (Public Works and Communications) *June* 25, 622, 625
  - £604,933 for Public Education, Scotland *June* 25, 608; Report *June* 29, 789
  - £19,923 for Temporary Commissions, etc., Salaries and Expenses *June* 18, 386

Helder, Mr. A., *Whitehaven*
  Election of Medical Officers of Health, Yorkshire *July* 8, 1362
  Land Transfer Bill, 2R. *July* 1, 944

Hemphill, Right Hon. Serjeant C. H., *Tyrone, N.*
  Congested Districts (Scotland) Bill, In Com. *June* 29, 799
  Incorporated Law Society *June* 29, 728
  Irish Judiciary *July* 5, 1108, 1109
  Land Transfer Bill, 2R. *July* 1, 943
  Supply
    £7,951 for Local Government Board (Scotland), Salaries and Expenses *June* 25, 587
    £630,291 for National Education, Ireland *July* 2, 1005, 1006, 1014
    £26,247 for Public Works Office, Ireland *July* 9, 1486, 1487, 1494, 1510, 1511
    £19,923 for Temporary Commissions, etc., Salaries and Expenses; Report *July* 5, 1190

Heneage, Lord
  Floods Prevention Bill, 2R. *July* 6, 1198, 1200
  Voluntary Schools Associations *July* 8, 1338, 1339; *July* 12, 1562, 1565

Herschell, Lord
  Floods Prevention Bill, 2R. *July* 6, 1200
  Sunday Bill, 2R. *June* 29, 714, 717

Hickman, Sir A., *Wolverhampton, W.*
  Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill, In Com. *June* 1, 47, 62, 73, 90; *June* 2, 98, 123, 133, 134; *June* 3, 219; *July* 5, 1134, 1166, 1172; *July* 6, 1269, 1286; *July* 12, 1620, 1631, 1642

Hicks Beach, Sir Michael E., Bart. (see Beach)

Hoare, Mr. E. Brodie, *Hampstead*
  Land Transfer Bill, 2R. *July* 1, 939, 940

Hobhouse, Lord
  Sunday Bill, 2R. *June* 29, 686, 702, 716, 717

Hobhouse, Mr. H., *Somerset, E.*
  County Councils (Advances) Bill, Intro. *June* 3, 260
  Plumbers' Registration Bill *June* 30, 818, 820, 849
  Supply: £549,992 for Science and Art Department, Salaries and Expenses *June* 17, 351

Hogan, Mr. J. F., *Tipperary, Mid*
  British Columbia *June* 24, 500
  Covent Garden Theatre Fund *July* 6, 1223
  House of Commons, Distinguished Strangers *July* 6, 1224
  New Hebrides *July* 8, 1361
  Post Office, Thurles (Tipperary) *June* 24, 500

Holburn, Mr. J. G., *Lanark, N.W.*
  Plumbers' Registration Bill *June* 30, 838

Holland, Hon. L. R., *Tower Hamlets, Bow and Bromley*
  Metropolitan Water Companies Bill, 2R. *June* 28, 656
  Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill, In Com., *June* 3, 208; *June* 4, 270; *July* 6, 1286; *July* 8, 1405; *July* 12, 1657

HOME DEPARTMENT.

Secretary of State—Sir M. W. Ridley
Under Secretary of State—Mr. Jesse Collings
  Bicycle Lights, *Qs.* Mr. B. V. Melville, Mr. P. M. Thornton; *As.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *June* 3, 169
  Brompton Cemetery, *Qs.* Sir C. Dilke; *As.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *June* 29, 723
  Chief Inspector of Factories, Report, *Q.* Sir C. Dilke; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *July* 6, 1216
  Constabulary, Officers of, Queen's Reign, *Q.* Mr. R. McKenna; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *June* 18, 368
  Coroners' Inquests, *Q.* Mr. J. H. Yoxall; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *July* 2, 952
  Corporal Punishment
    Civil Prisons, in, *Q.* Mr. J. A. Pease; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *June* 3, 170
    Prisons and Convict Establishments, *Qs.* Mr. J. A. Pease; *As.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *June* 29, 736
  County Asylums
    Classification of Patients, *Q.* Mr. J. Caldwell; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *July* 9, 1460
    Pauper Patients, *Q.* Mr. J. Caldwell; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *July* 1, 859
  Dartmoor Prison Warders, *Qs.* Mr. H. C. F. Luttrell; *As.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *June* 29, 723
  Distributing Offensive Leaflets, *Q.* Mr. S. Woods; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *July* 5, 1107
  Drunkenness, Stratford, *Q.* Mr. T. P. Whittaker; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *June* 1, 22
  Election Law, *Q.* Sir J. S. B. Simeon; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *July* 12, 1594
  Eviction in Borough Road, Queen's Reign, *Q.* Mr. D. Macaleese; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *June* 3, 160
  Experiments on Living Animals, *Q.* Mr. J. Ellis; *A.* Mr. Jesse Collings *July* 8, 1341
  Factory
    Acts, Fishing Industry, *Qs.* Sir C. Dilke; *As.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *July* 5, 1094
    Chief Inspector's Report, *Q.* Sir C. Dilke; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *July* 6, 1216
    Inspector's Assistants, *Q.* Mr. S. Woods; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *June* 1, 11
  Fire Brigade, Queen's Reign, *Q.* Mr. Wootton Isaacson; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *July* 5, 1111
  Forgery (Bynoe and Ripsher), *Q.* Mr. G. C. T. Bartley; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *July* 6, 1212

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HOME DEPARTMENT—cont.

- *Holiday, Government Employés, Queen's Reign, Q.* Mr. G. C. T. Bartley; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *June* 4, 264
- *Local Government Electors, Q.* Sir H. Fowler; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *June* 29, 743
- *Mines Inspector, South Wales, Q.* Mr. D. A. Thomas; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *June* 3, 182
- *Muzzling Order Convictions, Q.* Mr. C. E. Schwann; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *July* 9, 1457
- *Omnibus Fares, Queen's Reign, Qs.* Mr. E. Boulnois, Mr. E. H. Pickersgill; *As.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *June* 28, 635
- *Plumbers Registration Bill, Qs.* Mr. W. Woodall, Mr. G. C. T. Bartley; *As.* Mr. H. Chaplin *June* 21, 428
- *Police, Recognition of Services, Queen's Reign, Qs.* Mr. J. Aird; *As.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *June* 28, 633. *Q.* Captain Norton; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *July* 5, 1109
- *Prisons*
  - *Civil, Corporal Punishment, Q.* Mr. J. A. Pease; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *June* 3, 170
  - *Convict Establishments and Corporal Punishment, Q.* Mr. J. A. Pease; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *June* 29, 736
  - *Fare on Jubilee Day, Q.* Mr. F. A. Channing; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *June* 3, 158
  - *Rules, Qs.* Mr. J. A. Pease; *As.* Sir Matthew White Ridley, Mr. Powell-Williams *July* 6, 1210
  - *Warders, Dartmoor, Qs.* Mr. H. C. F. Luttrell; *As.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *June* 29, 723
- *Queen's Reign*
  - *Constabulary, Officers of, Q.* Mr. R. McKenna; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *June* 18, 368
  - *Eviction in Borough Road, Q.* Mr. D. Macaleese; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *June* 3, 160
  - *Fire Brigade, Q.* Mr. Wootton Isaacson; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *July* 5, 1111
  - *Holiday, Government Employés, Q.* Mr. G. C. T. Bartley; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *June* 4, 264
  - *Illumination of St. Paul's, Qs.* Sir F. Dixon-Hartland; *As.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *June* 3, 155
  - *Jubilee Day*
    - *Police, Recognition of Services, Qs.* Mr. J. Aird; *As.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *June* 28, 633. *Q.* Captain Norton; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *July* 5, 1109
    - *Prison Fare on, Q.* Mr. F. A. Channing; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *June* 3, 158
    - *Street Traffic on, Qs.* Mr. J. Aird, Mr. Stuart-Wortley; *As.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *June* 3, 158
  - *Omnibus Fares, Qs.* Mr. E. Boulnois, Mr. E. H. Pickersgill; *As.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *June* 28, 635
- *Royal British Nurses' Association, Q.* Mr. W. T. Howell; *A.* Mr. Jesse Collings *July* 8, 1355

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HOME DEPARTMENT—cont.

- *St. Paul's, Illumination of, Queen's Reign, Qs.* Sir F. Dixon-Hartland; *As.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *June* 3, 155
- *Treason-felony Prisoners, Qs.* Mr. M. Davitt, Mr. W. Allan; *As.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *July* 1, 871
- *Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill, Qs.* Mr. J. M. Maclean; *As.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *June* 3, 177. *Qs.* Mr. E. J. C. Morton; *As.* [Mr. Speaker] *July* 12, 1602 (For Debates see Title of Bill)

Hopkinson, Mr. A., *Wilts, Cricklade*
- Education Endowments (Ireland) Act (1885) Amendment Bill, In Com. *June* 28, 679

Horniman, Mr. Frederick John, *Penryn and Falmouth*
- Queen's Reign, Jubilee Medal *July* 8, 1365

Houldsworth, Sir W. H., Bart., *Manchester, N.W.*
- Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill, In Com. *June* 2, 100, 109; *July* 5, 1137; *July* 12, 1621, 1623

Howard, Mr. J., *Middlesex, Tottenham*
- Disappearance of a Traveller *July* 9, 1470

Howell, Mr. W. T., *Denbigh Boroughs*
- Poona Outrages *July* 12, 1590
- Royal British Nurses' Association *July* 8, 1355

Howorth, Sir H. H., *Salford, S.*
- Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill *July* 12, 1609

Hozier, Mr. J. H. C., *Lanarkshire, S.*
- Grenadier Guards *July* 9, 1466
- Recruits, Foot Guards *July* 9, 1466

Hubbard, Hon. E., *Lambeth, Brixton*
- Supply: £4,306,910 for Public Education, England and Wales *June* 17, 325

Huddersfield Corporation Bill
- Royal Assent *June* 3, 149

Hudson, Mr. G. B., *Herts, Hitchin*
- Military Equipment, India *June* 1, 24

Hutton, Mr. Alfred E., *Yorkshire, W.R., Morley*
- Khama's Territory *July* 8, 1358

Hutton, Mr. John, *Yorkshire, N.R., Richmond*
- Cottage Homes Bill, 2R. *July* 8, 1435
- Yorkshire Coroners Bill, Intro. *June* 3, 260; In Com. *July* 12, 1678

INCHIQUIN, Lord
Land Legislation, Ireland *July* 5, 1074, 1083

Inclosure Acts Amendment Bill
c. Intro., Colonel Williams; Read 1° *July* 6, 1225

INDIA

Secretary of State—Lord G. HAMILTON
Under Secretary of State—Earl of ONSLOW

Assam, Earthquake, Qs. Mr. J. H. Roberts; *As.* Lord G. Hamilton *June* 24, 509; *July* 9, 1467
Bombay, Plague, Q. Mr. J. M. Maclean; *A.* Lord G. Hamilton *June* 1, 26
British Army in, Q. Captain Pirie; *A.* Lord G. Hamilton *July* 9, 1469
Calcutta Riots, Qs. Mr. S. Smith; *As.* Lord G. Hamilton *July* 9, 1465
Chitpur Disturbances, Q. Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; *A.* Lord G. Hamilton *July* 5, 1113
Departmental Appointments, Q. Mr. H. J. Wilson; *A.* Mr. Curzon *June* 25, 559
Earthquake, Assam, Qs. Mr. J. H. Roberts; *As.* Lord G. Hamilton *June* 24, 509; *July* 9, 1467
Education, Q. Mr. H. J. Wilson; *A.* Lord G. Hamilton *June* 18, 370
Famine in, Q. Sir W. Wedderburn; *A.* Lord G. Hamilton *July* 1, 873
Financial Statement, Q. Mr. S. Smith; *A.* Lord G. Hamilton *June* 3, 173
Jhalawar, State of, Q. Mr. J. H. Roberts; *A.* Lord G. Hamilton *July* 12, 1594
Judicature, Qs. Lord Stanley of Alderley; [*Obs.* Lord Halsbury;] *As.* Marquess of Salisbury *July* 9, 1437
Loans, Q. Mr. T. Bayley; *A.* Lord G. Hamilton *July* 2, 965
Military Equipment, Q. Mr. G. B. Hudson; *A.* Lord G. Hamilton *June* 1, 24
Murder at Poona, Q. Mr. M. M. Bhownaggree; *A.* Lord G. Hamilton *June* 24, 510
Outrages at Poona, Qs. Mr. J. Heath, Mr. Swift MacNeill, Mr. M. Davitt, Sir W. Wedderburn, Mr. J. H. Roberts; [Mr. Speaker;] *As.* Lord G. Hamilton *July* 1, 862. *Qs.* Colonel Long, Sir W. Wedderburn, Sir W. Harcourt; *As.* Lord G. Hamilton *July* 2, 958. *Q.* Sir E. T. Gourley; *A.* Lord G. Hamilton *July* 5, 1118. *Qs.* Mr. J. G. Weir, Sir M. M. Bhownaggree, Mr. Swift MacNeill; *As.* Lord G. Hamilton *July* 9, 1461. *Qs.* Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett, Mr. W. T. Howell, Mr. Swift MacNeill; *As.* Lord G. Hamilton *July* 12, 1590
Plague
  Bacillus, Q. Mr. T. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. H. Chaplin *July* 12, 1586
  Bombay, Q. Mr. J. M. Maclean; *A.* Lord G. Hamilton *June* 1, 26
  India, in, Qs. Sir W. Wedderburn, Sir L McIver, Mr. J. Bryn Roberts, Mr. J. Lowther; *As.* Lord G. Hamilton, Mr. A. J. Balfour *July* 5, 1118

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INDIA—cont.
Poona
  Murder at, Q. Mr. M. M. Bhownaggree; *A.* Lord G. Hamilton *June* 24, 510
  Outrages at, Qs. Mr. J. Heath, Mr. Swift MacNeill, Mr. M. Davitt, Sir W. Wedderburn, Mr. J. H. Roberts; [Mr. Speaker;] *As.* Lord G. Hamilton *July* 1, 862. *Qs.* Colonel Long, Sir W. Wedderburn, Sir W. Harcourt; *As.* Lord G. Hamilton *July* 2, 958. *Q.* Sir E. T. Gourley; *A.* Lord G. Hamilton *July* 5, 1118. *Qs.* Mr. J. G. Weir, Sir M. M. Bhownaggree, Mr. Swift MacNeill; *As.* Lord G. Hamilton *July* 9, 1461. *Qs.* Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett, Mr. W. T. Howell, Mr. Swift MacNeill; *As.* Lord G. Hamilton *July* 12, 1590
Queen's Reign
  Indian Troops
    Colonial and, Tour Through Provinces, Qs. Mr. J. L. Wanklyn, Mr. W. Johnston; *As.* Mr. J. Chamberlain *June* 24, 503
    Expenses of Visit, Q. Sir W. Wedderburn; *A.* Lord G. Hamilton *June* 24, 503
    List of, Q. Mr. J. L. Wanklyn; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain *June* 18, 364
    Naval Review, Qs. Mr. J. L. Wanklyn, Mr. W. Allan, Sir J. Colomb; *As.* Mr. G. J. Goschen *June* 18, 364
    North London, Q. Mr. G. C. T. Bartley; *A.* Mr. Brodrick *June* 18, 366
  Seats for Indian Officers, Q. Captain Norton; *A.* Lord G. Hamilton *June* 3, 157
Railways, Q. Sir W. Wedderburn; *A.* Lord G. Hamilton *June* 24, 502. *Q.* Mr. A. O'Connor; *A.* Lord G. Hamilton *June* 28, 644
Riots, Calcutta, Qs. Mr. S. Smith; *As.* Lord G. Hamilton *July* 9, 1465
Silver Imports, Q. Mr. J. M. Maclean; *A.* Lord G. Hamilton *June* 1, 27
Sterling Loan, Q. Mr. J. H Roberts; *A.* Lord G. Hamilton *July* 9, 1467
Troops (see *Queen's Reign* above)
Wreck of Indian Troopship, Warren Hastings, Qs. Mr. P. M. Thornton; *As.* Lord G. Hamilton *July* 12, 1589

Infant Life Protection Bill
c. Read 2° and com. to Standing Com. on Law, Etc. *July* 6, 1296

Insanity (see LUNACY)

IRELAND

Lord Lieutenant—Earl CADOGAN
Chief Secretary—Mr. G. W. BALFOUR
Lord Chancellor—Lord ASHBOURNE
Attorney General—Mr. J. ATKINSON
Solicitor General—Mr. W. KENNY

Agricultural Rating Act, Qs. Sir T. G. Esmonde, Mr. J. Dillon; [Mr. Speaker;] *As.* Mr. G. Balfour, Sir M. Hicks Beach *June* 29, 727
Allotments in, Q. Mr. J. J. Shee; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *June* 29, 743

[*cont.*

IRELAND—cont.

- *Army Forage Supplies, Qs.* Mr. W. Field; *As.* Mr. Powell-Williams *July* 8, 1357
- *Assault Case, Aughnacloy, Q.* Mr. D. Macaleese; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *June* 29, 734
- *Asylums, Q* Mr. P. O'Brien; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 2, 960
- *Aughnacloy, Assault Case, Q.* Mr. D. Macaleese; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *June* 29, 734
- *Ballyshannon Dispensary Committee, Q.* Mr. Swift MacNeill; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 12, 1588
- *Baltimore, Q.* Mr. P. O'Brien; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *June* 3, 166
- *Bangor Town Commissioners, Down, Q.* Mr. D. Macaleese; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 5, 1098
- *Bantry (Cork)*
  - *Fairs and Market Tolls, Q.* Mr. J. Gilhooly; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 5, 1099
  - *Pier, Q.* Mr. J. Gilhooly; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 6, 1222
- *Belfast Police Court Cells, Qs.* Mr. J. Dillon; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *June* 28, 641
- *Belfast Water Bill* (see that Title)
- *Belmullet Union, Fever Outbreak, Qs.* Mr. D. Crilly; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *June* 28, 646; *July* 6, 1219; *July* 8, 1359. *Qs.* Mr. W. Field, Mr. D. Crilly; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 9, 1472
- *Board of*
  - *Trade Office, Cork, Q.* Sir T. G. Esmonde; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 9, 1459
  - *Works, Irish, Qs.* Mr. J. Daly, Mr. J. Dillon; *As.* Mr. Hnnbury *July* 2, 964
- *Castlebar Post Office, Q.* Dr. R. Ambrose; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 5, 1123
- *Castleblaney, Postal Facilities, Q.* Mr. J. Daly; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *June* 29, 733
- *Catholic University Education, Qs.* Mr. J. Dillon; *As.* Mr. A. J. Balfour *July* 1, 873
- *Cavan, Garvagh Estate, Q.* Mr. S. Young; *A.* G. Balfour *June* 29, 729
- *Charge of Theft, Dublin, Qs.* Mr. Swift MacNeill; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *June* 28, 643
- *Civil Bill Courts, Q.* Mr. T. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 12, 1589
- *Clogher Valley Tramway, Q.* Mr. G. Murnaghan; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 8, 1348
- *Clones Post Office, Q.* Mr. D. Macaleese; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 1, 859
- *Cloughoula National School, Qs.* Mr. P. O'Brien; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour, Mr. Hanbury *July* 12, 1593
- *College of Science, Dublin, Qs.* Mr. Swift MacNeill; *As.* Mr. Hanbury *June* 25, 560
- *Constabulary, Royal Irish* (see subhead *Royal Irish Constalulary* below)
- *Cork*
  - *Bantry*
    - *Fairs and Market Tolls, Q.* Mr. J. Gilhooly; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 5, 1099
    - *Pier, Q.* Mr. J. Gilhooly; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 6, 1222
  - *Board of Trade Office, Q.* Sir T. G. Esmonde; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 9, 1459
  - *Post Office, Q.* Sir T. G. Esmonde; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 9, 1457
- *County Cess, Qs.* Mr. T. M. Healy; *As.* Mr. J. Atkinson *July* 2, 969
- *Deportation of Paupers, Qs.* Mr. J. Daly; *As.* Mr. A. J. Balfour *June* 29, 744

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IRELAND—cont.

- *Derry, Postal Facilities, Gulladuff, Q.* Mr. T. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 6, 1217
- *Dingle Harbour, Kerry, Qs.* Sir T. G. Esmonde, Captain Donelan; *As.* Mr. J. Atkinson *June* 25, 557
- *Divisional Commissioner, Monaghan, Q.* Mr. J. Daly; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 2, 951
- *Donegal Railway, Q.* Mr. Vesey Knox; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 8, 1355
- *Down, Bangor Town Commissioners, Q.* Mr. D. Macaleese; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 5, 1098
- *Dublin*
  - *Celebrations, Queen's Reign, Qs.* Mr. P. O'Brien; [Mr. Speaker;] *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *June* 28, 636. *Q.* Mr. P. O'Brien; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 5, 1110
  - *Charge of Theft, Qs.* Mr. Swift MacNeill; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *June* 28, 643
  - *College of Science, Qs.* Mr. Swift MacNeill; *As.* Mr. Hanbury *June* 25, 560
  - *Metropolitan Police, Q.* Mr. W. Field; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 9, 1471
  - *Publicans' Licences, Q.* Mr. P. O'Brien; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 2, 976
  - *Street Disturbances, Qs.* Mr. J. Daly, Mr. W. E. H. Lecky, Mr. W. Johnston, Mr. J. Dillon, Mr. J. G. Weir; *As.* Mr. J. Atkinson *June* 25, 563. *Q.* Mr. J. Daly; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 1, 861. *Q.* Mr. P. O'Brien; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 5, 1110. *Q.* Mr. W. Field; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 6, 1221
- *Dublin Corporation Bill* (see that Title)
- *Duke and Duchess of York, Visit, Q.* Mr. W. Johnston; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour *July* 1, 874
- *Dundalk Post Office, Q.* Mr. T. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 6, 1217
- *Education*
  - *Catholic University, Qs.* Mr. J. Dillon; *As.* Mr. A. J. Balfour *July* 1, 873
  - *Intermediate Examinations, Q.* Mr. W. Johnston; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *June* 21, 438
  - *Technical, Q.* Mr. W. Field; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 9, 1472
- *Erasmus Smith Endowments, Q.* Mr. T. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 12, 1595
- *Estate, Garvagh, Cavan, Q.* Mr. S. Young; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *June* 29, 729
- *Evictions, Qs.* Mr. T. M. Healy; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 12, 1581
- *Exchequers of Ireland and Great Britain, Q.* Sir T. G. Esmonde; *A.* Sir M. Hicks Beach *June* 25, 558
- *Fairs and Market Tolls, Bantry, Cork, Q.* Mr. J. Gilhooly; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 5, 1099
- *Fever*
  - *Hospitals, Q.* Mr. J. L. Carew; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *June* 1, 21
  - *Outbreak, Belmullet Union, Qs.* Mr. D. Crilly; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *June* 28, 646; *July* 6, 1219; *July* 8, 1359. *Qs.* Mr. W. Field, Mr. D. Crilly; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 9, 1472
- *Fisheries, Irish, Q.* Mr. G. Murnaghan; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 9, 1463
- *Floods, Kerry, Q.* Captain Donelan; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 6, 1213
- *Franchise, Qs.* Mr. P. O'Brien, Mr. T. M. Healy; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 5, 1111
- *Galway Bay, Illegal Trawling, Q.* Mr. W. Field; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 6, 1220

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IRELAND—cont.

- *Garvagh Estate*, *Cavan*, *Q.* Mr. S. Young; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *June* 29, 729
- *Giants' Causeway*, *Q.* General McCalmont; *A.* Mr. J. Atkinson *June* 3, 174
- *Glebe Tenants*, *Q.* Mr. G. Murnaghan; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 8, 1346
- *Grand Jury*, *Wicklow*, *Q.* Mr. J. O'Connor; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *June* 21, 434
- *Great Northern Railway Company*, *Q.* Mr. D. Macaleese; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *June* 4, 268. *Q.* Mr. D. Macaleese; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 2, 953
- *Guardians' Loan*, *Westport*, *Q.* Dr. R. Ambrose; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 9, 1468
- *Harbours*
  - *Dingle*, *Kerry*, *Qs.* Sir T. G. Esmonde, Captain Donelan; *As.* Mr. J. Atkinson *June* 25, 557
  - *Wicklow*
    - *Legislation*, *Q.* Mr. W. Field; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 9, 1471
    - *Loan*, *Q.* Mr. H. C. Plunkett; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 2, 955
- *Illegal Trawling*, *Galway Bay*, *Q.* Mr. W. Field; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 6, 1220
- *Intermediate Education Examinations*, *Q.* Mr. W. Johnston; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *June* 21, 438
- *Judiciary*, *Qs.* Sir J. Colomb, Mr. P. O'Brien; *As.* Mr. A. J. Balfour *June* 3, 184. *Q.* Mr. Swift MacNeill; *A.* Mr. J. Atkinson *June* 24, 507. *Qs.* Mr. Swift MacNeill; *As.* Sir M. Hicks Beach *June* 29, 726. *Qs.* Mr. Serjeant Hemphill, Mr. M. Davitt; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 5, 1108
- *Kerry*
  - *Dingle Harbour*, *Qs.* Sir T. G. Esmonde, Captain Donelan; *As.* Mr. J. Atkinson *June* 25, 557
  - *Floods*, *Q.* Captain Donelan; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 6, 1213
  - *St. Michael's Church*, *Skellig Michael*, *Q.* Mr. W. E. H. Lecky; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 5, 1114
- *Kilkenny*
  - *Petty Sessions*, *Qs.* Mr. P. O'Brien; *As.* Mr. J. Atkinson *June* 3, 179
  - *Telegraph Facilities*, *Q.* Mr. P. O'Brien; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *June* 3, 167
  - *Waterworks*, *Q.* Mr. P. O'Brien; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour *July* 5, 1124
- *Kinsale Pier*, *Qs.* Dr. A. Commins, Mr. J. C. Flynn; *As.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 9, 1464
- *Labourers*
  - *Acts*, *Q.* Mr. G. Murnaghan; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 8, 1347
  - *Cottages*, *Qs.* Captain Donelan, Mr. J. Dillon; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 1, 870
  - *Dwellings*, *Q.* Mr. S. Young; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *June* 29, 729
- *Land Commission*, *Qs.* Mr. S. Young, Captain Donelan; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *June* 3, 164. *Qs.* Mr. M. McCartan, Mr. Swift MacNeill; *As.* Mr. J. Atkinson, Mr. G. Balfour *June* 24, 507. *Q.* Mr. M. McCartan; *A.* Mr. J. Atkinson *June* 25, 562. *Q.* Mr. M. McCartan; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *June* 28, 647. *Q.* Mr. J. Daly; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *June* 29, 731. *Q.* Mr. D. Macaleese; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 6, 1214. *Q.* Mr. J. C. Flynn; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 8, 1361

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IRELAND—cont.

- *Land Law Acts*, *Royal Commission*, *Qs.* Mr. J. Morley, Mr. Swift McNeill; [Mr. Speaker;] *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 2, 973. *Qs.* Mr. J. Morley, Mr. T. M. Healy, Mr. Swift MacNeill; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour, Mr. A. J. Balfour *July* 9, 1477
- *Land Legislation (Ireland)* (see that Title)
- *Larceny*, *Alleged*, *Monaghan*, *Q.* Mr. D. Macaleese; *A.* Mr. J. Atkinson *June* 1, 30
- *Licences*, *Publicans*, *Dublin*, *Q.* Mr. P. O'Brien; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 2, 976
- *Light Railways* (see under Title RAILWAYS)
- *Loan*
  - *Fund Societies*, *Q.* Sir T. Lea; *A.* Mr. J. Atkinson *June* 25, 561
  - *Westport Guardians*, *Q.* Dr. R. Ambrose; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 9, 1468
  - *Wicklow Harbour*, *Q.* Mr. H. C. Plunkett; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 2, 955
- *Local Government (Ireland)* (see that Title)
- *Local Taxation*, *Q.* Sir T. G. Esmonde; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *June* 29, 734
- *Lunacy*, *Q.* Mr. J. Dillon; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *June* 29, 728
- *Magistracy*, *Monaghan*, *Qs.* Mr. J. Daly, Mr. W. Johnston; [Mr. Speaker;] *As.* Mr. J. Atkinson *June* 25, 564. *Q.* Mr. Swift MacNeill; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 5, 1093
- *Mail Service*, *Q.* Mr. E. Crean; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *June* 1, 22. *Qs.* Mr. J. Daly, Mr. D. Macaleese; *As.* Mr. Hanbury *June* 29, 732. *Qs.* Major Jameson, Mr. D. Macaleese; *As.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 2, 950. *Q.* Sir T. G. Esmonde; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 5, 1105. *Q.* Mr. J. L. Carew; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 8, 1344. *Qs.* Mr. T. M. Healy, Sir T. G. Esmonde, Mr. J. P. Farrell; *As.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 9, 1453. *Q.* Captain Donelan; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 12, 1597
- *Maryborough Prison*, *Patrick Conneely*, *Qs.* Mr. M. Davitt; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *June* 3, 176
- *Metropolitan Police*, *Dublin*, *Q.* Mr. W. Field; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 9, 1471
- *Monaghan*
  - *Alleged Larceny*, *Q.* Mr. D. Macaleese; *A.* Mr. J. Atkinson *June* 1, 30
  - *Divisional Commissioner*, *Q.* Mr. J. Daly; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 2, 951
  - *Magistracy*, *Qs.* Mr. J. Daly, Mr. W. Johnston; [Mr. Speaker;] *As.* Mr. J. Atkinson *June* 25, 564. *Q.* Mr. Swift MacNeill; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 5, 1093
- *Muzzling Order*, *Sheep Dogs*, *Qs.* Mr. J. O'Connor, Mr. Gibson Bowles; [Mr. Speaker;] *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *June* 28, 637
- *National*
  - *Education Board*, *Qs.* Mr. Vesey Knox, Mr. J. C. Flynn; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 8, 1353
  - *Schools*
    - *Cloughoula*, *Qs.* Mr. P. O'Brien; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour, Mr. Hanbury *July* 12, 1593
    - *General*, *Qs.* Mr. J. Daly, Mr. J. Dillon, Mr. G. Murnaghan, Mr. J. Gibney; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour, Mr. Hanbury *July* 2, 961
    - *Irish Language*, *Q.* Mr. T. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 12, 1597

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IRELAND—cont.
National Schools—cont.
Teachers' Pension Fund, *Q.* Mr. J. L. Carew; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *June* 4, 267. *Qs.* Dr. Tanner, Captain Donelan; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *June* 21, 430. *Q.* Mr. J. Daly; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *June* 29, 740
Omagh, *Post Office*, *Q.* Mr. G. Murnaghan; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 6, 1218
Paupers, Deportation of, *Qs.* Mr. J. Daly; *As.* Mr. A. J. Balfour *June* 29, 744
Petty Sessions, Kilkenny, *Qs.* Mr. P. O'Brien; *As.* Mr. J. Atkinson *June* 3, 179
Piers
Bantry, *Q.* Mr. J. Gilhooly; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 6, 1222
Kinsale, *Qs.* Dr. A. Commins, Mr. J. C. Flynn; *As.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 9, 1464
Police
Court Cells, Belfast, *Qs.* Mr. J. Dillon; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *June* 28, 641
Dublin, Metropolitan, *Q.* Mr. W. Field; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 9, 1471
Royal Irish Constabulary (see below)
Postal
Delivery, *Q.* Mr. J. O'Connor; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 2, 974
Facilities
Castleblaney, *Q.* Mr. J. Daly; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *June* 29, 733
Gulladuff (Derry), *Q.* Mr. T. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 6, 1217
Post Offices
Castlebar, *Q.* Dr. R. Ambrose; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 5, 1123
Clones, *Q.* Mr. D. Macaleese; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 1, 859
Cork, *Q.* Sir T. G. Esmonde; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 9, 1457
Dundalk, *Q.* Mr. T. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 6, 1217
Omagh, *Q.* Mr. G. Murnaghan; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 6, 1218
Thurles, Tipperary, *Q.* Mr. J. F. Hogan; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *June* 24, 500
Prison, Maryborough, Patrick Conneely, *Qs.* Mr. M. Davitt; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *June* 3, 176
Private Bill Legislation, *Qs.* Mr. W. E. H. Lecky, Mr. J. Dillon; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *June* 1, 31
Publicans' Licences, Dublin, *Q.* Mr. P. O'Brien; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 2, 976
Queen's Colleges, *Qs.* Mr. Lees Knowles; *As.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 8, 1342
Queen's Reign
Dublin Celebrations, *Qs.* Mr. P. O'Brien; [Mr. Speaker;] *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *June* 28, 636. *Q.* Mr. P. O'Brien; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 5, 1110
Royal Irish Constabulary, Expenses of, *Q.* Mr. Swift MacNeill; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *June* 24, 504
Railways
Donegal, *Q.* Mr. Vesey Knox; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 8 1355
Great Northern Company, *Q.* Mr. D. Macaleese; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *June* 4, 268. *Q.* Mr. D. Macaleese; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 2, 953
Light (see under Title RAILWAYS)
Rosslare—Mr. T. M. Healy, (*Apology*) *July* 12, 1580

IRELAND—cont.
Railways—cont.
Waterford, Dungarvan, and Lismore, *Q.* Mr. E. A. Goulding; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *June* 24, 501. *Q.* Mr. J. O'Connor; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 2, 975. *Qs.* Mr. S. Morris, Mr. J. Redmond, Mr. P. J. Power, Mr. T. Lough; *As.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 8, 1356
Rosslare Railway, Mr. T. M. Healy, (*Apology*) *July* 12, 1580
Royal Irish Constabulary
Expenses of, Queen's Reign, *Q.* Mr. Swift MacNeill; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *June* 24, 504
General, *Q.* Captain Donelan; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *June* 3, 181. *Qs.* Mr. Swift MacNeill; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *June* 28, 642. *Q.* Mr. J. Daly; *A.* Sir M. Hicks Beach *June* 29, 731. *Qs.* Mr. T. M. Healy; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 2, 967. *Q.* Mr. D. Macaleese; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 6, 1215. *Q.* Mr. J. P. Farrell; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 9, 1474
St. Michael's Church, Skellig Michael (Kerry), *Q.* Mr. W. E. H. Lecky; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 5, 1114
Schools
Erasmus Smith, Endowments, *Q.* Mr. T. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 12, 1595
Fee Grant, *Q.* Mr. Vesey Knox; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 8, 1354
National
Cloughoula, *Qs.* Mr. P. O'Brien; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour, Mr. Hanbury *July* 12, 1593
General, *Qs.* Mr. J. Daly, Mr. J. Dillon, Mr. G. Murnaghan, Mr. J. Gibney; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour, Mr. Hanbury *July* 2, 961
Irish Language, *Q.* Mr. T. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 12, 1597
Teachers' Pension Fund, *Q.* Mr. J. L. Carew; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *June* 4, 267. *Qs.* Dr. Tanner, Captain Donelan; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *June* 21, 430. *Q.* Mr. J. Daly; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *June* 29, 740
Science, Royal College of, *Qs.* Mr. Swift MacNeill; *As.* Mr. Hanbury *June* 25, 560
Street Disturbances, Dublin, *Qs.* Mr. J. Daly, Mr. W. E. H. Lecky, Mr. W. Johnston, Mr. J. Dillon, Mr. J. G. Weir; *As.* Mr. J. Atkinson *June* 25, 563. *Q.* Mr. J. Daly; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 1, 861. *Q.* Mr. P. O'Brien; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 5, 1110. *Q.* Mr. W. Field; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 6, 1221
Teachers' (Ireland) Pension Act 1879, *Q.* Mr. T. M. Healy; *A.* Sir M. Hicks Beach *July* 9, 1452
Teachers' Pension Fund, National Schools, *Q.* Mr J. L. Carew; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *June* 4, 267 *Qs.* Dr. Tanner, Captain Donelan; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *June* 21, 430. *Q.* Mr. J. Daly; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *June* 29, 740
Technical Education, *Q.* Mr. W. Field; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 9, 1472
Telegraph Facilities, Kilkenny, *Q.* Mr. P. O'Brien; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *June* 3, 167
Telegraphic Communication, England and Ireland, *Q.* Mr. D. Macaleese; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 9, 1473

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- *Tipperary, Thurles Post Office, Q.* Mr. J. F. Hogan; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *June* 24, 500
- *Tourist Traffic, Q.* Mr. J. L. Carew; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 6, 1217
- *Town Tenants, Q.* Mr. W. Field; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 6, 1221
- *Treason-felony Prisoners, Q.* Mr. M. Davitt; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 8, 1344
- *Union, Belmullet, Fever Outbreak, Qs.* Mr. D. Crilly; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *June* 28, 646; *July* 6, 1219; *July* 8, 1359. *Qs.* Mr. W. Field, Mr. D. Crilly; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 9, 1472
- *Visit of Duke and Duchess of York, Q.* Mr. W. Johnston; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour *July* 1, 874
- *Waterford, Dungarvan, and Lismore Railway. Q.* Mr. E. A. Goulding; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *June* 24, 501. *Q.* Mr. J. O'Connor; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 2, 975. *Qs.* Mr. S. Morris, Mr. J. Redmond, Mr. P. J. Power, Mr. T. Lough; *As.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 8, 1356
- *Waterworks, Kilkenny, Q.* Mr. P. O'Brien; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour *July* 5, 1124
- *Westport Guardians, Loan, Q.* Dr. R. Ambrose; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 9, 1468
- *Wicklow*
  - *Grand Jury, Q.* Mr. J. O'Connor; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *June* 21, 434
  - *Harbour*
    - *Legislation, Q.* Mr. W. Field; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 9, 1471
    - *Loan, Q.* Mr. H. C. Plunkett; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 2, 955
- *Workhouse Infirmaries, Q.* Mr. J. L. Carew; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *June* 1, 21

ISAACSON, Mr. F. WOOTTON, *Tower Hamlets, Stepney*

- Post Office, Secretary *June* 1, 21
- Queen's Reign
  - Letters for Chelsea Barracks *June* 24, 504
  - Metropolitan Fire Brigade *July* 5, 1111

Isle of Man (Church Building Acts) Bill

c. 2R. (*Division*, 672); Mr. A. J. Balfour, (*Motion*) 673; (*Division*, 673) *June* 28

- 2R. negatived *June* 28, 672
- 2R., Mr. D. Lloyd George *July* 5, 1184

JAMESON, Major J. EUSTACE, *Clare, W.*

- Irish Mail Service *July* 2, 950
- Queen's Reign, Jubilee Procession *June* 18, 367
- Supply: £26,247 for Public Works Office, Ireland *July* 9, 1497, 1504

JEFFREYS, Mr. A. F., *Hants, Basingstoke*

- Adulteration of Food Products *June* 21, 437
- Queen's Reign, Aldershot Review *June* 18, 366

JOHNSTON, Mr. WILLIAM, *Belfast, S.*

- Dublin Corporation Bill *July* 8, 1341
- Duke and Duchess of York, Visit to Ireland *July* 1, 874

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JOHNSTON, Mr. W.—*cont.*

- Education Endowments (Ireland) Act (1885) Amendment Bill, In Com. *June* 28, 677, 678, 679
- Intermediate Education Examinations, Ireland *June* 21, 438
- Monaghan Magistracy *June* 25, 565
- Queen's Reign, Colonial Troops and Provincial Towns *June* 24, 503
- Street Disturbances, Dublin *June* 25, 563
- Supply: £137,137 for Public Works and Buildings, Ireland *July* 2, 991

JOHNSTONE, Mr. J. HEYWOOD, *Sussex, Horsham*

- Horsham Burial District Joint Committee *July* 12, 1596
- Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill *July* 6, 1271

JOICEY, Sir JAMES, Bart., *Durham, Chester-le-Street*

- Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill *July* 5, 1132, 1133, 1142, 1145, 1150, 1151, 1175; *July* 6, 1237, 1242, 1251, 1255, 1268, 1292; *July* 8, 1372; *July* 12, 1622, 1624, 1632, 1638, 1639, 1640

JOLLIFFE, Hon. H. GEORGE HYLTON, *Somerset, Wells*

- Post Office, Weston-super-Mare *June* 3, 173

JONES, Mr. DAVID BRYNMOR, *Swansea District*

- Supply
  - £4,306,910 for Public Education, England and Wales *June* 17, 307
  - £19,923 for Temporary Commissions, etc., Salaries and Expenses *June* 18, 385
- Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill *July* 12, 1662

JONES, Mr. W., *Carnarvon, Arfon*

- Berriew School Bill, 3R. *June* 29, 792
- Land Transfer Bill, 2R. *July* 1, 943
- Supply
  - £4,306,910 for Public Education, England and Wales *June* 17, 307
  - £604,933 for Public Education, Scotland; Report *June* 29, 790

JORDAN, Mr. J., *Fermanagh, S.*

- Supply: £7,951 for Local Government Board (Scotland), Salaries and Expenses *June* 25, 599

Juries Detention Bill

l. Returned from Commons with Amendts. Agreed to *June* 3, 150

KEARLEY, Mr. H. E., *Devonport*
  Destruction of Crops, Essex *June* 29, 740
  Post Office Establishments *June* 1, 9
  Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill *July* 12, 1654, 1655

KEMP, Mr. GEORGE, *Lancashire, S.E., Heywood*
  Supply: £4,306,910 for Public Education, England and Wales *June* 17, 314

KENNAWAY, Right Hon. Sir JOHN H., Bart., *Devonshire, Honiton*
  Supply: £238,212 for Diplomatic and Consular Services *June* 24, 531

KENYON, Mr. JAMES, *Bury, Lancashire*
  Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill, In Com. *June* 1, 73

KILBRIDE, Mr. D., *Galway, N.*
  Supply: £26,247 for Public Works Office, Ireland *July* 9, 1507

KIMBERLEY, Earl of
  Church Patronage Transfers Bill, 3R. *July* 9, 1444, 1446
  Delagoa Bay Arbitration *July* 8, 1341
  Floods Prevention Bill, 2R. *July* 6, 1202
  Lunacy Bill, 2R. *July* 9, 1450
  Queen's Diamond Jubilee, Address to Her Majesty *June* 21, 419, 422
  Turkey and Greece *July* 6, 1207
  Voluntary Schools Associations *July* 12, 1575, 1579

KIMBER, Mr. H., *Wandsworth*
  Civil Service, Second Division Clerks *June* 3, 176
  Jubilee Medals *July* 9, 1457
  Plumbers' Registration Bill *June* 30, 848
  Supply: £60,672 for Treasury *June* 18, 402

KNOWLES, Mr. LEES, *Salford, W.*
  Plumbers' Registration Bill *June* 30, 815, 816, 817, 820, 825, 826, 827, 828, 835, 847, 848, 850; *July* 7, 1324, 1327
  Queen's
    Colleges, Ireland *July* 8, 1342, 1343
    Reign, Naval Review *June* 18, 369
  Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill, In Com. *June* 1, 44; *June* 2, 104, 109; *July* 8, 1379, 1380

KNOX, Mr. E. F. VESEY, *Londonderry City*
  Donegal Railway *July* 8, 1355
  Education Endowments (Ireland) Act (1885) Amendment Bill, In Com. *June* 28, 677, 678, 680
  National Education Board, Ireland *July* 8, 1353
  School Fee Grant, Ireland *July* 8, 1354
  Supply: £26,247 for Public Works Office, Ireland *July* 9, 1506, 1517, 1521

LABOUCHERE, Mr. HENRY, *Northampton*
  Verminous Persons Bill, 3R. *July* 7, 1302, 1307
  Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill In Com. *June* 4, 271, 272

Labour Bureaux Bill
c. Withdrawn *June* 21, 440

LABOUR QUESTIONS, ETC.
  Chief Inspector of Factories, Report, Q. Sir C. Dilke; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *July* 6, 1216
  Constabulary, Officers of, Queen's Reign, Q. Mr. R. McKenna; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *June* 18, 368
  Cotton Cloth Factories Bill (see that Title)
  Engineering Trade Dispute, Q. Mr. E. Robertson; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 8, 1365
  Factory
    Acts, Fishing Industry, Qs. Sir C. Dilke; *As.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *July* 5, 1094
    Chief Inspector's Report, Q. Sir C. Dilke; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *July* 6, 1216
    Inspectors' Assistants, Q. Mr. S. Woods; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *June* 1, 11
  Government Servants, Minimum Wages, Q. Captain Norton; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour *June* 29, 745
  Labourers
    Acts, Ireland, Q. Mr. G. Murnaghan; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 8, 1347
    Cottages, Ireland, Qs. Captain Donelan, Mr. J. Dillon; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 1, 870
    Dwellings, Ireland, Q. Mr. S. Young; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *June* 29, 729
  London and India Docks Joint Committee, Q. Mr. J. F. Flannery; *A.* Sir R. Webster *June* 24, 508
  Plumbers' Registration Bill (see that Title)
  Police, Recognition of Services, Queen's Reign, Qs. Mr. J. Aird; *As.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *June* 28, 633
  Post Office Duty, Q. Mr. W. Field; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 8, 1365
  Queen's Reign
    Constabulary, Officers of, Q. Mr. R. McKenna; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *June* 18, 368
    Holiday, Government Employés, Q. Mr. G. C. T. Bartley; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour *June* 3, 161
    Police, Recognition of Services, Qs. Mr. J. Aird; *As.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *June* 28, 633
  Shipwrights, Navy, Q. General Laurie; *A* Mr. Macartney *June* 1, 20. *Q.* Mr. S. Woods; *A.* Mr. Macartney *June* 24, 501
  Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill, Qs. Mr. J. M. Maclean; *As.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *June* 3, 177. *Q.* Mr. E. Bainbridge; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain *July* 8, 1350. *Qs.* Mr. E. J. C. Morton; *As.* Mr. Speaker *July* 12, 1602
  (For Debates see Title of Bill)

LAMBERT, Mr. G., *Devon, South Molton*
Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill *July* 8, 1410

Lancashire Derbyshire and East Coast Railway Bill
Royal Assent *June* 3, 149

Land Legislation (Ireland)
Debate Resumed on Lord Inchiquin's Motion: Lord Clonbrock, 1044; Marquess of Londonderry, 1050; Duke of Argyll, 1055, 1067, 1068; Earl of Mayo, 1061; Lord Ashbourne, 1065, 1068; Lord Castletown, 1068, 1069; Earl of Belmore, 1073; Lord Inchiquin, 1074, 1083; Viscount Clifden, 1075; Viscount Templetown, 1076; Viscount Midleton, 1076; Marquess of Lansdowne, 1079; (*Motion withdrawn*, 1083) *July* 5

Land Transfer Bill
c. 2R., Mr. R. B. Haldane, 674; Mr. A. J. Balfour, 674 *June* 28
2R., Sir R. Webster, 936, 940, 943; Mr. R. B. Haldane, 939, 941; Mr. E. B. Hoare, 939, 940; Mr. Sydney Gedge, 939; Mr. D. Lloyd-George, 939, 942; Captain Bethell, 940; Mr. A. J. Balfour, 941; Mr. A. Billson, 942; Mr. M. Davitt, 943; Mr. T. C. T. Warner, 943; Mr. W. Jones, 943; Mr. Serjeant Hemphill, 943 *July* 1
Read 2° *July* 1, 943
Sir R. Webster, (*Motion*) 943; Dr. Tanner, 943; Mr. J. Daly, 943; Mr. T. C. T. Warner, 944; Captain Bethell, 944; Mr. A. J. Balfour, 944; Mr. Tomlinson, 944; Mr. J. G. Weir, 944; Mr. A. Helder, 944; (*Motion Agreed to*, 944) *July* 1
Committed to Standing Com. on Law, etc. *July* 1, 944
In Com. (*Motion for Money*) *July* 5, 1193
In Com. (*Motion for Money Agreed to*) *July* 6, 1293
Reso. Rep. and Agreed to *July* 8, 1433

LANSDOWNE, MARQUESS OF (Secretary of State for War)
Land Legislation, Ireland *July* 5, 1079
Review at Aldershot *June* 21, 417
Volunteers Bill, In Com. *July* 8, 1333, 1334, 1335

LAURIE, General J. W., *Pembroke and Haverfordwest*
Canadian Mail Service *June* 1, 9, 10
Plumbers' Registration Bill *June* 30, 813, 816, 817; *July* 7, 1325, 1328
Postal Reforms *July* 8, 1346
Shipwrights, Navy *June* 1, 20
Verminous Persons Bill, 3R. *July* 7, 1307

LAW AND JUSTICE AND POLICE
Administration of Oath, England, Q. Sir B. W. Foster; *A.* Sir R. Webster *July* 6, 1223
Assault Case, Aughnacloy, Q. Mr. D. Macaleese; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *June* 29, 734
Belfast Police Court Cells, Qs. Mr. J. Dillon: *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *June* 28, 641

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LAW AND JUSTICE AND POLICE—cont.
Charge of Theft, Dublin, Qs. Mr. Swift MacNeill; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *June* 28, 643
Civil Bill Courts, Ireland, Q. Mr. T. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 12, 1589
Constabulary Royal Irish (see *Royal Irish Constabulary* below)
Contempt of Court, St. Vincent, Q. Sir C. Dilke; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain *June* 18, 369
Coroners' Inquests, Q. Mr. J. H. Yoxall; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *July* 2, 952
Corporal Punishment
  Civil Prisons, Q. Mr. J. A. Pease; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *June* 3, 170
  Colonial Military Prisons, Q. Mr. J. A. Pease; *A.* Mr. Brodrick *June* 29, 736
  Military Prisons, Q. Mr. J. A. Pease; *A.* Mr. Brodrick *June* 3, 170
  Prisons and Convict Establishments, Q. Mr. J. A. Pease; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *June* 29, 736
County Cess, Ireland, Qs. Mr. T. M. Healy; *As.* Mr. J. Atkinson *July* 2, 969
Dartmoor Prison Warders, Qs. Mr. H. C. F. Luttrell; *As.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *June* 29, 723
Discharged Prisoners' Aid Societies (see that Title)
Divisional Commissioner, Monaghan, Q. Mr. J. Daly; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 2, 951
Dublin
  Charge of Theft, Qs. Mr. Swift MacNeill; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *June* 28, 643
  Metropolitan Police, Q. Mr. W. Field; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 9, 1471
  Street Disturbances, Qs. Mr. J. Daly, Mr. W. E. H. Lecky, Mr. W. Johnston, Mr. J. Dillon, Mr. J. G. Weir; *As.* Mr. J. Atkinson *June* 25, 563. *Q.* Mr. J. Daly; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 1, 861. *Q.* Mr. W. Field; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 6, 1221
Election Law, Q. Sir J. S. B. Simeon; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *July* 12, 1594
Evictions, Ireland, Qs. Mr. T. M. Healy; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 12, 1581
Forgery (Bynoe and Ripsher), Q. Mr. G. C. T. Bartley; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *July* 6, 1212
Grand Jury, Wicklow, Q. Mr. J. O'Connor; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *June* 21, 434
High Sheriffs, Seats for, Queen's Reign, Q. Mr. T. G. Ashton; *A.* Mr. Akers-Douglas *June* 1, 17
Incorporated Law Society, Q. Mr. Serjeant Hemphill; *A.* Sir M. Hicks Beach *June* 29, 728
Indian Judicature, Qs. Lord Stanley of Alderley; [*Obs.* Lord Halsbury;] *As.* Marquess of Salisbury *July* 9, 1437
Irish Judiciary, Qs. Sir J. Colomb, Mr. P. O'Brien; *As.* Mr. A. J. Balfour *June* 3, 184. *Q.* Mr. Swift MacNeill; *A.* Mr. J. Atkinson *June* 24, 507. *Qs.* Mr. Swift MacNeill; *As.* Sir M. Hicks Beach *June* 29, 726. *Qs.* Mr. Serjeant Hemphill, Mr. M. Davitt; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 5, 1108
Judicial Trustees Act 1896, Q. Sir H. Vincent; *A.* Sir R. Webster *June* 3, 183
Kilkenny Petty Sessions, Qs. Mr. P. O'Brien; *As.* Mr. J. Atkinson *June* 3, 179

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LAW AND JUSTICE AND POLICE—cont.

- *Land Commission, Ireland, Qs.* Mr. S. Young, Captain Donelan; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *June* 3, 164. *Qs.* Mr. M. McCartan, Mr. Swift MacNeill; *As.* Mr. J. Atkinson, Mr. G. Balfour *June* 24, 507. *Q.* Mr. M. McCartan; *A.* Mr. J. Atkinson *June* 25, 562. *Q.* Mr. M. McCartan; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *June* 28, 647. *Q.* Mr. J. Daly; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *June* 29, 731. *Q.* Mr. D. Macaleese; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 6, 1214. *Q.* Mr. J. C. Flynn; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 8, 1361
- *Land Law (Ireland) Acts, Royal Commission, Qs.* Mr. J. Morley, Mr. Swift MacNeill; [Mr. Speaker;] *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 2, 973. *Qs.* Mr. J. Morley, Mr. T. M. Healy, Mr. Swift MacNeill; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour, Mr. A. J. Balfour *July* 9, 1477
- *Larceny, Alleged, Monaghan, Q.* Mr. D. Macaleese; *A.* Mr. J. Atkinson *June* 1, 30
- *London and India Docks Joint Committee, Q.* Mr. J. F. Flannery; *A.* Sir R. Webster *June* 24, 508
- *Magistracy, Monaghan, Qs.* Mr. J. Daly, Mr. W. Johnston; [Mr. Speaker;] *As.* Mr. J. Atkinson *June* 25, 564. *Q.* Mr. Swift MacNeill; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 5, 1093
- *Married Women, Recovery of Debts, Q.* Lord Hugh Cecil; *A.* Sir R. Webster *July* 12, 1599
- *Maryborough Prison, Patrick Conneely, Qs.* Mr. M. Davitt; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *June* 3, 176
- *Metropolitan and Other Police Courts Bill* (see that Title)
- *Metropolitan Police, Dublin, Q.* Mr. W. Field; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 9, 1471
- *Monaghan*
  - *Alleged Larceny, Q.* Mr. D. Macaleese; *A.* Mr. J. Atkinson *June* 1, 30
  - *Divisional Commissioner, Q.* Mr. J. Daly; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 2, 951
  - *Magistracy, Qs.* Mr. J. Daly, Mr. W. Johnston; [Mr. Speaker;] *As.* Mr. J. Atkinson *June* 25, 564 *Q.* Mr. Swift MacNeill; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 5, 1093
- *Petty Sessions, Kilkenny, Qs.* Mr. P. O'Brien; *As.* Mr. J. Atkinson *June* 3, 179
- *Police*
  - *Conduct of, Disturbances at Dublin, Queen's Reign, Q.* Mr. P. O'Brien; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 5, 1110
  - *Court Cells, Belfast, Qs.* Mr. J. Dillon; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *June* 28, 641
  - *Dublin, Metropolitan, Q.* Mr. W. Field; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 9, 1471
  - *Recognition of Services, Queen's Reign, Q.* Captain Norton; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *July* 5, 1109
  - *Services of, Queen's Reign, Qs.* Sir J. Fergusson, Sir H. Fowler, Mr. J. Aird; *As.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *June* 24, 505
- *Police Property Bill* (see that Title)
- *Prisoners, Reform, Pretoria, Release of, Q.* Mr. M. Davitt; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain *June* 24, 510
- *Prisons*
  - *Corporal Punishment* (see sub-head above)
  - *Maryborough, Patrick Conneely, Qs.* Mr. M. Davitt; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *June* 3, 176

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LAW AND JUSTICE AND POLICE—cont

- *Prisons*—cont.
  - *Rules, Qs.* Mr. J. A. Pease; *As.* Sir Matthew White Ridley, Mr. Powell-Williams *July* 6, 1210
  - *System, Scotland, Qs.* Mr. Hedderwick; *As.* Mr. Graham Murray *July* 1, 869; *July* 12, 1595
  - *Warders, Dartmoor, Qs.* Mr. H. C. F. Luttrell; *As.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *June* 29, 723
- *Queen's Bench Case, Q.* Mr. J. L. Walton; *A.* Sir R. Webster *July* 6, 1224
- *Queen's Reign*
  - *Disturbances at Dublin, Conduct of Police, Q.* Mr. P. O'Brien; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 5, 1110
  - *High Sheriffs, Seats for, Q.* Mr. T. G. Ashton; *A.* Mr. Akers-Douglas *June* 1, 17
  - *Police*
    - *Recognition of Services, Q.* Captain Norton; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *July* 5, 1109
    - *Services of, Qs.* Sir J. Fergusson, Sir H. Fowler, Mr. J. Aird; *As.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *June* 24, 505
  - *Royal Irish Constabulary, Expenses of, Q.* Mr. Swift MacNeill; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *June* 24, 504
- *Recovery of Debts, Married Women, Q.* Lord Hugh Cecil; *A.* Sir R. Webster *July* 12, 1599
- *Royal Irish Constabulary*
  - *Expenses of, Queen's Reign, Q.* Mr. Swift MacNeill; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *June* 24, 504
  - *General, Q.* Captain Donelan; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *June* 3, 181. *Qs.* Mr. Swift MacNeill; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *June* 28, 642. *Q.* Mr. J. Daly; *A.* Sir M. Hicks Beach *June* 29, 731. *Qs.* Mr. T. M. Healy; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 2, 967. *Q.* Mr. D. Macaleese; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 6, 1215. *Q.* Mr. J. P. Farrell; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 9, 1474
- *Sessions, Kilkenny Petty, Qs.* Mr. P. O'Brien; *As.* Mr. J. Atkinson *June* 3, 179
- *Street Disturbances, Dublin, Qs.* Mr. J. Daly, Mr. W. E. H. Lecky, Mr. W. Johnston, Mr. J. Dillon, Mr. J. G. Weir; *As.* Mr. J. Atkinson *June* 25, 563. *Q.* Mr. J. Daly; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 1, 861. *Q.* Mr W. Field; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 6, 1221
- *Treason-felony Prisoners, Qs.* Mr. M. Davitt, Mr. W. Allan; *As.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *July* 1, 871. *Q.* Mr. M. Davitt; *A* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 8, 1344
- *Zanzibar, Slavery in, Q.* Mr. T. Bayley; *A.* Sir R. Webster *June* 18, 371

LAWRENCE, Mr. EDWIN, *Cornwall, Truro*

- Queen's Reign, Jubilee Day *June* 4, 265

LAWRENCE, Mr. WILLIAM F., *Liverpool, Abercromby*

- Supply
  - £64,876 for Colonial Services *June* 24, 551
  - £238,212 for Diplomatic and Consular Services *June* 24, 524

LAWSON, Mr. J. GRANT (Parliamentary Charity Commissioner), *York, N.R., Thirsk and Malton*
Charity Lands Trustees *July* 5, 1105
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(Rulings as Chairman of Committee)
Miscellaneous—July 2, 1033, 1035

LAWSON, Sir WILFRID, Bart., *Cumberland, Cockermouth*
Ashbourne Board of Guardians *July* 12, 1581
Foreign Office Examinations *July* 8, 1348
Queen's Reign, Arabi Pacha *June* 17, 286

LEA, Sir THOMAS, Bart., *Londonderry, S.*
Loan Fund Societies, Ireland *June* 25, 561

LECKY, Right Hon. W. E. H., *Dublin University*
Private Bill Legislation, Ireland *June* 1, 31
St. Michael's Church, Skellig Michael (Kerry) *July* 5, 1114
Street Disturbances, Dublin *June* 25, 563
Supply
£2,450 for Queen's Colleges, Ireland *July* 9, 1527
£19,923 for Temporary Commissions, etc., Salaries and Expenses *June* 18, 385

LEES, Sir ELLIOTT, Bart., *Birkenhead*
Queen's Reign, Aldershot Review *July* 5, 1111
St. Paul's Cathedral *July* 12, 1600, 1601
Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill In Com. *June* 3, 210

LEGH, Hon. T. WODEHOUSE, *Lancashire, S.W., Newton*
Finance Bill, In Com. *June* 29, 776, 778, 781
Supply: £238,212 for Diplomatic and Consular Services *June* 24, 543
Treaty with Abyssinia *July* 8, 1344
Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill *July* 8, 1378; *July* 12, 1637

LENG, Sir JOHN, *Dundee*
Plumbers' Registration Bill *June* 30, 839
Queen's Reign, Jubilee Procession *June* 1, 16, 17; *June* 3, 157
Supply
£604,933 for Public Education, Scotland *June* 25, 600, 614
£8,111 for Secretary for Scotland Office, Salaries and Expenses *June* 25, 567, 568
£19,923 for Temporary Commissions, etc., Salaries and Expenses *June* 18, 375
Telegraph
Charges *July* 12, 1587
Service, Scotland *June* 3, 171
Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill, In Com. *June* 2, 113

LEUTY, Mr. T. R., *Leeds, E.*
Supply: £238,212 for Diplomatic and Consular Services *June* 24, 535
Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill *July* 6, 1235

LINCOLN, Lord Bishop of *(Dr. Edward King)*
Voluntary Schools Associations *July* 12, 1564, 1565

LLOYD-GEORGE, Mr. DAVID, *Carnarvon Boroughs*
Adjournment of the House *June* 28, 681
Finance Bill, In Com. *June* 3, 251
Isle of Man (Church Buildings Acts) Bill, 2R. *July* 5, 1184
Land Transfer Bill, 2R. *July* 1, 939, 942
Naval Works, Money *July* 5, 1126, 1127
Supply
£4,306,910 for Public Education, England and Wales *June* 17, 338, 339, 349
£19,923 for Temporary Commissions, etc., Salaries and Expenses *June* 18, 383, 384

Local Government (Aldershot and Farnborough) Bill
c. Withdrawn *June* 28, 675

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD
President—Mr. H. CHAPLIN
Secretary—Mr. T. W. RUSSELL
Agricultural Rating Act 1896, Qs. Mr. E. P. Monckton, Sir T. G. Esmonde; *As.* Mr. H. Chaplin, Sir M. Hicks Beach *July* 5, 1097. *Q.* Mr. J. C. Rickett; *A.* Mr. H. Chaplin *July* 8, 1363
Ashbourne Board of Guardians, Q. Sir W. Lawson; *A.* Mr. H. Chaplin *July* 12, 1581
Boarding-out Orders, Q. Lord E. Talbot; *A.* Mr. T. W. Russell *June* 25, 559. *Q.* Lord E. Talbot; *A.* Mr. H. Chaplin *July* 2, 966
Burial District, Horsham, Joint Committee, Q. Mr. J. H. Johnstone; *A.* Mr. H. Chaplin *July* 12, 1596
County Asylums, Pauper Patients, Q. Mr. J. Caldwell; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *July* 1, 859
Didsbury Voluntary School Rate, Q. Mr. J. C. Williams; *A.* Mr. H. Chaplin *June* 28, 639
Dispensers, Poor Law Unions, Q. Mr. A. Lyttelton; *A.* Mr. H. Chaplin *July* 8, 1358
Guardians, Board of, Ashbourne, Q. Sir W. Lawson; *A.* Mr. H. Chaplin *July* 12, 1581
Horsham Burial District, Joint Committee, Q. Mr. J. H. Johnstone; *A.* Mr. H. Chaplin *July* 12, 1596
Lambeth Water Works Company, Q. Mr. C. E. Tritton; *A.* Mr. H. Chaplin *July* 12, 1599
Local Taxation, Royal Commission, Q. Sir H. Fowler; *A.* Mr. T. W. Russell *June* 1, 29
Medical Officers of Health, Yorkshire, Election of, Q. Mr. A. Helder; *A.* Mr. H. Chaplin *July* 8, 1362
Metropolitan Asylums Board, Children's Committee, Q. Mr. E. H. Pickersgill; *A.* Mr. H. Chaplin *July* 8, 1364
Metropolitan Water Companies Bill, Q. Mr. Sydney Buxton; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour *June* 1, 30
(For Debate see Title of Bill)
Pauper Patients, County Asylums, Q. Mr. J. Caldwell; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *July* 1, 859

[*cont.*

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD—cont.
- *Plague Bacillus, India, Q.* Mr. T. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. H. Chaplin *July* 12, 1586
- *Plumbers' Registration Bill, Qs.* Mr. W. Woodall, Mr. G. C. T. Bartley; *As.* Mr. H. Chaplin *June* 21, 428. *Q.* Mr. W. Woodall; *A.* Mr. H. Chaplin *July* 5, 1115
  - (For Debates see Title of Bill)
- *Quarry Bank Mines, Staffordshire, Q.* Mr. C. Fenwick; *A.* Mr. H. Chaplin *June* 24, 501
- *Queen's Reign, Urban District Councils, Medals for, Q.* Mr. T. B. Bolitho; *A.* Mr. H. Chaplin *July* 1, 867
- *Sculcoates Union, Q.* Lord E. Talbot; *A.* Mr. T. W. Russell *June* 4, 263
- *South Metropolitan School, Sutton, Q.* Sir S. Montagu; *A.* Mr. H. Chaplin *July* 2, 970
- *Southwark and Vauxhall Water Company, Qs.* Mr. R. K. Causton; *As.* Mr. H. Chaplin *July* 12, 1598
- *Tithe Map, Denbighshire, Q.* Mr. J. H. Roberts; *A.* Mr. H. Chaplin *July* 9, 1456
- *Unions*
  - *Dispensers, Poor Law, Q.* Mr. A. Lyttelton; *A.* Mr. H. Chaplin *July* 8, 1358
  - *Sculcoates, Q.* Lord E. Talbot; *A.* Mr. T. W. Russell *June* 4, 263
- *Urban District Councils, Jubilee Medals for, Q.* Mr. T. B. Bolitho; *A.* Mr. H. Chaplin *July* 1, 867
- *Voluntary School Rate, Didsbury, Q.* Mr. J. C. Williams; *A.* Mr. H. Chaplin *June* 28, 639
- *Water Supply, London, Commission, Q.* Mr. B. L. Cohen; *A.* Mr. H. Chaplin *June* 21, 433

Local Government (Ireland)
- Lord Morris, (*Motion*) 1; Lord Halsbury, 4; (*Motion withdrawn*, 4) *June* 1

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill
- Royal Assent *June* 3, 149

Local Government (Scotland) Act (1894) Amendment Bill
- *c.* Intro., Mr. J. P. Smith; Read 1° *June* 1, 32

Lochearnhead St. Fillans and Comrie Railway Bill
- *c.* Dr. Farquharson, 1090; Mr. F. A. Channing, (*Motion*) 1090, 1091; Mr. J. W. Lowther, 1090 *July* 5
- *l.* Read 2ª *July* 9, 1437

Lockwood, Sir Frank, *York City*
- Business of the House, General *June* 24, 509

Loder, Mr. Gerald W. E., *Brighton*
- Steam Trawlers, Injury to Brighton Drift Nets *June* 1, 14

Logan, Mr. J. W., *Leicester, Harborough*
- Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill, In Com. *June* 1, 54; *June* 3, 217, 228

London and North Western Railway Bill
- Royal Assent *June* 3, 149

London and North Western Railway (Wales) Bill
- Royal Assent *June* 3, 149

London and South Western Railway (Meon Valley Railway) Bill
- Royal Assent *June* 3, 150

London Bank of Australia Bill
- Royal Assent *June* 3, 150

London (Clare Market, Strand) Provisional Order Bill
- Royal Assent *June* 3, 150

Londonderry, Marquess of
- Land Legislation, Ireland *July* 5, 1050

Long, Colonel Charles W., *Worcestershire, Evesham*
- Poona Outrages *July* 2, 958

LONG, Right Hon. WALTER H. (President of the Board of Agriculture), *Liverpool, West Derby*
- Business of the House, General *July* 2, 978
- Cattle
  - Carrying Regulations *July* 5, 1104
  - Food *June* 3, 172
  - Weighing *June* 4, 268
- Consultative Council of Agriculture, Scotland *July* 2, 958
- Destruction of Crops, Essex *July* 1, 870; *July* 5, 1125
- Dog Muzzling
  - Leicester *June* 24, 499
  - Order *July* 8, 1350
  - Sheep Dogs *June* 21, 428; *July* 5, 1096
- Extraordinary Tithe Bill, In Com. *June* 4, 282, 283
- Mersey Dock and Harbour Board Bill, 3R. *July* 5, 1087
- Mersey Docks Bill *July* 1, 872
- Mynydd-y-Gwair Common *June* 3, 166
- Pea-thripp *June* 21, 437
- Sheep-scab *June* 21, 437
- Weighing Cattle *June* 4, 268

Loughborough Corporation Bill
- Royal Assent *June* 3, 150

Lough, Mr. Thomas, *Islington, W.*
- Adjournment of the House *June* 28, 682
- Business of the House, General *June* 2, 147
- Extraordinary Tithe Bill, In Com. *June* 4, 282

[*cont.*

LOUGH, Mr. T.—*cont.*

- Finance Bill, In Com. *June* 29, 753, 755, 756, 770
- Matabeleland Rising *July* 12, 1587
- Metropolitan Water Companies Bill, 2R. *June* 28, 657
- Naval
  - Regulations *July* 6, 1222
  - Review, Queen's Reign *June* 29, 737, 739
  - Works, Money *July* 5, 1126
- Queen's Reign
  - House of Commons Reception *June* 28, 634, 635
  - Naval Review *June* 29, 737, 739
- Railway Clearing House Bill *June* 28, 630
- Revenue and Expenditure, Irish Estimates *June* 29, 730
- South Kensington Museum *June* 3, 154
- Supply: £19,923 for Temporary Commissions, etc., Salaries and Expenses *June* 18, 385, 387
- Waterford, Dungarvan, and Lismore Railway *July* 8, 1356

LOWLES, Mr. J., *Shoreditch, Haggerston*

- Metropolitan Water Companies Bill, 2R. *June* 28, 664

LOWTHER, Mr. J. W. (Chairman of Committee of Ways and Means and Deputy Speaker), *Cumberland, Penrith*

- Lochearnhead, St. Fillans, and Comrie Railway Bill *July* 5, 1090
- Parliamentary Franchise (Extension to Women) Bill *July* 6, 1209
- Pilotage Provisional Order Bill *July* 5, 1091

(Rulings as Chairman of Committees)

Congested Districts (Scotland) Bill

- The Chairman said: "This Amendment is not on the Paper, and I have not seen it before. But if it means anything, it means that sums beyond the £20,000 to which the Committee has already given its assent, may be allocated by Parliament for this particular purpose, and, if that be so, it would be out of order." *June* 29, 806
- The Chairman said: "That is an argument against the original Resolution, and the hon. Member should have made his objection when it was moved. The Committee have decided that £20,000 should be the maximum sum, and therefore the Committee cannot now go beyond that sum." *June* 29, 807

Finance Bill

- The Chairman said: "I was under the impression that the hon. Member was going to conclude his speech by moving his Amendment." *June* 29, 769
- The Chairman suggested, that the two new clauses on the Paper of the hon. Member for the Newton Division of Lancashire should be combined and put forward as one new Clause *June* 29, 777

[*cont.*

LOWTHER, Mr. J. W.—*cont.*

(Rulings as Chairman of Committees)—cont.

Supply: £238,212 for Diplomatic and Consular Services.

- The Chairman said: "Questions of this kind have always been raised on the Foreign Office Vote, and that would be the proper place for the discussion of this subject. The hon. Member has been quite in order in drawing attention to the particular and abnormal position—as he describes it—of Lord Cromer in Egypt, but any general discussion of the policy of the Government in Egypt ought to be raised on the Foreign Office Vote." *June* 24, 529
- The Chairman said: "I do not think that question could be properly raised on this Vote. Lord Cromer is the agent of the British Government in Egypt, and of course he would only carry out the instructions given him by the Foreign Office, and it is on the Foreign Office Vote that a discussion on the subject of any further expedition in the Soudan would properly be raised." *June* 24, 529

Supply: £27,323 for Fishery Board, Scotland

- The Chairman thought, the question which the hon. Baronet wished to raise ought to be raised on the Vote for Piers and Harbours in the Highlands and Islands. If he wished, however, to raise the question as regarded the whole of Scotland, it might possibly arise now *June* 25, 574

Supply: £83,566 for Home Office, Salaries and Expenses

- The Chairman said, the question should be raised on the Police Vote; he did not think it could be raised on the Home Office Vote *June* 18, 410
- The Chairman said: "I am not aware of that. I am aware that the matter was dealt with on the Police Vote on a former occasion, and that was the proper place to deal with it." *June* 18, 410
- The Chairman said: "I must follow the precedent I set myself when I allowed the question to be raised on the Police Vote. I must hold, therefore, that this is not the proper place to raise it." *June* 18, 410

Supply: £137,137 for Public Works and Buildings, Ireland

- The Chairman reminded the hon. Member that a Vote dealing with Queen's College Belfast, would come before the Committee presently; and that, he thought, would be the proper time to raise the question he was discussing *July* 2, 993
- The Chairman said: "The hon. Member is now clearly arguing the question that arises on Vote 14, Clause 4, which will raise the question of the general position of Queen's College. The only question before the Committee now is the Grant for boundary wall and railings." *July* 2, 994

[*cont*

LOWTHER, Mr. J. W.—*cont.*

(Rulings as Chairman of Committees)—cont.

Supply : £19,928 for Railways, Ireland

The Chairman thought not, as the fares must have been settled by the various Acts of Parliament passed when the lines were first constructed *July* 2, 995

Supply : £8,111 for Secretary for Scotland Office, Salaries and Expenses

The Chairman said: "The hon. Member will be entitled to raise the question in a few moments, when we come to the Vote for the Local Government Board of Scotland. Of course the Lord Advocate replies in this House on behalf of the Local Government Board of Scotland." *June* 25, 569

The Chairman repeated that the proper place and time to raise the matter was when the Local Government Board Vote came on *June* 25, 570

The Chairman said: "When the Vote for the Local Government Board comes before the Committee the hon. Member and his Friends will be entitled to move a reduction of the Vote asked for in respect of the criticisms they wish to make upon the action of the Secretary of State for Scotland." *June* 25, 572

Supply : £60,672 for Treasury

The Chairman said, the general question with regard to the Teachers' Pension Fund did not arise on that Vote. That Vote related solely to the office *June* 18, 401

Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill

The Chairman said, the Home Secretary had the same words in before the hon. Member, and he was, therefore, entitled to get the decision of the Committee first. If the Committee rejected the right hon. Gentleman's words, then the hon. Member would be in order *June* 1, 49

The Chairman said, he thought the hon. Member was now dealing with matters from a Second Reading point of view. The hon. Member was entitled to use arguments why the Bill should be delayed coming into operation, but he was now travelling rather beyond that *June* 1, 60

The Chairman said: "There is no other form in which the question can possibly be put, and it cannot be helped if the hon. Member is excluded. He can raise the question lower down, upon the Schedule." *June* 1, 93

The Chairman said: "It is impossible to discuss another Amendment which really does not raise the same point as that raised by the Amendment now before the Committee. The hon. Member will have an opportunity lower down." *June* 1, 93

The Chairman pointed out that it was unusual to make a speech on the question that leave be given to withdraw an Amendment unless it were intended to object to leave being given. *June* 2, 99

[*cont.*

LOWTHER, Mr. J. W.—*cont.*

(Rulings as Chairman of Committees)—cont.

Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill—cont.

The Chairman said: "The hon. Member's Amendment does more than that. What he does is to define 'dependants' as including wife, husband, parent, or child, and he says that these people are to be known hereafter as 'dependants.' If he will look at the Schedule he will see that Sub-section 3 specially defines dependants; therefore, the proper place to raise the question of definition is on Sub-section 3." *June* 2, 105

The Chairman said: "I do not think it would be in order. To begin with, the Amendment of the hon. Member for Glasgow was put in such a way that 'dependants' does now stand part of the Schedule. But in addition to that, I also conceive that the Amendment of the hon. Member for Stroud, whether these last words are in or not, is in fact a definition of what is meant by 'dependants,' and the proper place to raise the question of definition is on Sub-section 3." *June* 2, 105

The Chairman said: "I think that the hon. Member for Kincardineshire's Motion should come at the end. When the Committee has decided on the particular sum that shall be paid, then the hon. Member will move that it be paid in a particular way, namely, through the Post Office or in any other way." *June* 2, 106

The Chairman said: "There is no provision in this Bill for the salary of a medical officer to be appointed by the Secretary of State, and there is no power in the Secretary of State to appoint such an officer. If the hon. Member will confine his Amendment to the medical officers appointed by the employer, it will be in order, but he cannot move at this stage to insert medical officer appointed by the Secretary of State." *June* 2, 134

The Chairman said: "The Resolution of the Committee enables a charge to be imposed, so far as relates to arbitration, but it does not cover the case raised by the hon. Member in his Amendment." *June* 2, 134

The Chairman said: "I think that course may be taken, or else it will be possible to discuss the question of the limit of the amount on the next Amendment which stands upon the Paper, which raises that question, and that question only." *June* 2, 136

The Chairman said: "The Amendment would be contrary to order. The Committee has not seen the proposed Third Schedule." *June* 3, 207

The Chairman said: "It is contrary to order to move an Amendment in this way referring to a proposed Amendment which does not appear on the Paper, and of which no notice has been given." *June* 3, 207

[*cont.*

LOWTHER, Mr. J. W.—*cont.*
(Rulings as Chairman of Committees)—cont.
Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill—cont.
The Chairman said: "The discussion has mainly had reference to the original Amendment. I think it would be best to decide the question before the Committee—which is, the substitution of 'six months' for 'twelve months' in the Amendment." *June* 3, 231
Miscellaneous Rulings
June 1, 37, 49, 53, 65, 93; *June* 2, 119, 123, 133, 134; *June* 3, 207, 237, 252; *June* 4, 281; *June* 17, 325, 328; *June* 24, 545, 552, 553; *June* 25, 568, 569, 572: *June* 29, 766, 768; *July* 5, 1127

LOWTHER, Right Hon. JAMES, *Kent, Isle of Thanet*
Chaff-cutting Machines (Accidents) Bill *July* 9, 1476
Plague in India *July* 5, 1123
Verminous Persons Bill, 3R. *July* 7, 1298, 1302
Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill *July* 5, 1129, 1142; *July* 6, 1238, 1246, 1257, 1273; *July* 8, 1378

LUBBOCK, Right Hon. Sir JOHN, Bart., *London University*
Finance Bill, In Com. *June* 29, 755, 756
Metropolitan Water Companies Bill, 2R. *June* 28, 655
Plumbers' Registration Bill *July* 7, 1324
Supply: £4,306,910 for Public Education, England and Wales *June* 17, 303
Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill, In Com. *June* 3, 247

Lunacy
Asylums
County, *Q.* Mr. J. Caldwell; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *July* 9, 1460
Ireland, *Q.* Mr. P. O'Brien; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 2, 960
Ireland, *Q.* Mr. J. Dillon; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour, *June* 29, 728
Lunacy Bill (see that Title)

Lunacy Bill
l. 2R., Lord Halsbury, 1449, 1450: Earl of Kimberley, 1450 *July* 9
Read 2ª and com. to Com. of Whole House *July* 9, 1450

LUTTRELL, Mr. H. C. FOWNES, *Devonshire, Tavistock*
Artillery Practice, Dartmoor *June* 1, 19, 20
Customs, Boatmen *July* 1, 869
Dartmoor Prison Warders *June* 29, 723
Rural Postmen *June* 24, 506

LYELL, Sir LEONARD, Bart., *Orkney and Shetland*
Channel Squadron *June* 28, 631
Congested Districts (Scotland) Bill, In Com. *July* 1, 925

LYTTELTON, Hon. ALFRED, *Warwick and Leamington*
Dispensers, Poor Law Unions *July* 8, 1358
Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill *July* 5, 1177

MACALEESE, Mr. D., *Monaghan, N.*
Alleged Larceny, Monaghan *June* 1, 30
Assault Case, Aughnacloy, Ireland *June* 29, 734
Bangor Town Commissioners, Down *July* 5, 1098
Clones Post Office *July* 1, 859
Great Northern Railway Company of Ireland *June* 4, 268; *July* 2, 953
Irish
Land Commission *July* 6, 1214
Mail Service *June* 29, 732; *July* 2, 951
Queen's Reign, Evictions in the Borough *June* 3, 160
Royal Irish Constabulary *July* 6, 1215
Telegraphic Communication, England and Ireland *July* 9, 1473

MCARTHUR, Mr. W. A., *Cornwall, St. Austell*
Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill, In Com. *June* 3, 238

MACARTNEY, MR. W. G. ELLISON (Secretary to the Admiralty), *Antrim, S.*
British and Foreign Navies *June* 24, 498
Fishery Cruisers *June* 1, 24
Naval Pension, Michael Saunders *July* 9, 1459
Queen's Reign, Naval Review *June* 1, 18; *June* 18, 369
Shipwrights, Navy *June* 1, 21; *June* 24, 501

MCCALMONT, General HUGH, *Antrim, N.*
Giant's Causeway *June* 3, 174

MCCARTAN, Mr. M., *Down, S.*
Irish Land Commission *June* 24, 507; *June* 25, 562; *June* 28, 647

MACDONA, Mr. J. CUMMING, *Southwark, Rotherhithe*
Committees, House of Lords *June* 17, 287
Queen's Reign
Jubilee Procession *June* 4, 265
Naval Review *June* 21, 426
Reported Dangerous Rock in the Atlantic *July* 2, 966

M'HUGH, Mr. P. A., *Leitrim, N.*
Finance Bill, In Com. *June* 3, 252

McIver, Sir Lewis, Bart., *Edinburgh, W.*
- Plague in India *July* 5, 1118

McKenna, Mr. R., *Monmouthshire, N.*
- Queen's Reign, Constabulary Force *June* 18, 368
- Supply
  - £238,212 for Diplomatic and Consular Services *June* 24, 523
  - £83,566 for Home Office, Salaries and Expenses *June* 18, 412, 413
  - £4,306,910 for Public Education, England and Wales *June* 17, 325
- Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill, In Com. *June* 1, 42, 82; *June* 2, 119, 121, 123, 125, 141; *June* 4, 270; *July* 5, 1135, 1151, 1174, 1175, 1177; *July* 6, 1250, 1276; *July* 12, 1646, 1651, 1663, 1670, 1671, 1672

McKillop, Mr. James, *Stirlingshire*
- Weighing Cattle *June* 4, 267
- Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill, In Com. *June* 1, 65

Maclean, Mr. James M., *Cardiff*
- Plague, Bombay *June* 1, 26
- Queen's Reign, Jubilee Procession *June* 17, 286; *June* 21, 426
- Silver Imports, India *June* 1, 26
- Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill *June* 3, 177; *July* 5, 1139; *July* 8, 1373, 1374

McLeod, Mr. John, *Sutherland*
- Congested Districts (Scotland) Bill, In Com. *June* 29, 796, 798, 801, 804, 807; *July* 1, 918, 924, 933
- Culloden House *July* 9, 1468
- Supply
  - £17,500 for Highlands and Islands, Public Works and Communications; Report *June* 29, 791
  - £604,933 for Public Education, Scotland; Report *June* 29, 789
  - £8,111 for Secretary for Scotland Office, Salaries and Expenses; Report *June* 29, 787, 788

Maclure, Mr. J. W., *Lancashire, S.E., Stretford*
- Queen's Reign, Jubilee Procession *June* 21, 424
- Second Dragoon Guards *June* 21, 435

MacNeill, Mr. J. G. Swift, *Donegal, S.*
- Army Deferred Pensions *June* 25, 559
- Ballyshannon Dispensary Committee *July* 12, 1588
- Business of the House, General *July* 2, 978
- Crete *June* 28, 651
- Dublin
  - Charge of Theft *June* 28, 643, 644
  - College of Science *June* 25, 560, 561
- Irish
  - Judiciary *June* 24, 507; *June* 29, 726, 727
  - Land Commission *June* 24, 507
- Land Law (Ireland) Acts *July* 2, 974; *July* 9, 1479
- Magistracy, Monaghan *July* 5, 1093

[*cont.*

MacNeill, Mr. J. G. Swift—*cont.*
- Poona Outrages *July* 1, 862, 863; *July* 9, 1462
- Queen's Reign, Jubilee Expenses *June* 24, 504
- Royal Irish Constabulary *June* 28, 642, 643
- Supply
  - £238,212 for Diplomatic and Consular Services *June* 24, 537
  - £630,291 for National Education, Ireland *July* 2, 1028
  - £137,137 for Public Works and Buildings, Ireland *July* 2, 980, 989, 993
  - £2,450 for Queen's Colleges, Ireland *July* 9, 1524, 1526, 1527

Manchester Sheffield and Lincolnshire Railway Bill
- Royal Assent *June* 3, 150

Maple, Sir John Blundell, Bart., *Camberwell, Dulwich*
- Plumbers' Registration Bill *June* 30, 838; *July* 7, 1323, 1328
- Southwark and Vauxhall Water Bill *June* 24, 493

Market Gardeners Compensation (Scotland) Bill
- *l.* 2R., Lord Reay, 947; Lord Balfour, 948; *July* 2
- Read 2ª and com. to Com. of Whole House *July* 2, 948
- In Com., Rep. without Amendt. and re-com. to Standing Com. *July* 5, 1083
- Rep. without Amendt. *July* 6, 1197
- 3R., Earl of Wemyss, 1336; Lord Reay, 1336. *July* 8
- Read 3ª and Passed *July* 8, 1336

Mason's Orphanage Bill
- Royal Assent *June* 3, 150

Mason University College Bill
- Royal Assent *June* 3, 150

Maxwell, Sir J. Stirling- (see Stirling-Maxwell)

Mayo, Earl of
- Delagoa Bay Arbitration *July* 8, 1340
- Dublin Corporation Bill, 3R. *July* 2, 945
- Land Legislation, Ireland *July* 5, 1061
- Tithe Rent-charge, Ireland *July* 12, 1550

Mellor, Colonel J. J., *Lancashire, S.E., Radcliffe-cum-Farnworth*
- Supply: £4,306,910 for Public Education, England and Wales *June* 17, 318

Mellor, Right Hon. John William, *York, W.R., Sowerby*
- Railway Clearing House Bill *June* 28, 629
- Supply: £19,923 for Temporary Commissions, etc., Salaries and Expenses *June* 18, 377

MELVILLE, Mr. BERESFORD V., *Stockport*
- Bicycle Lights *June* 3, 169

MERCHANT SHIPPING

- *Atlantic, Reported Dangerous Rock in*, *Q.* Mr. J. C. Macdona; *A.* Mr. G. J. Goschen *July* 2, 966
- *Baltimore, Ireland*, *Q.* Mr. P. O'Brien; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *June* 3, 166
- *Bantry Pier*, *Q.* Mr. J. Gilhooly; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 6, 1222
- *Cattle, Carrying Regulations*, *Qs.* Sir A. B. Forwood; *As.* Mr. W. Long *July* 5, 1103
- *Consular Charges, Morocco Ports*, *Q.* Sir A. B. Forwood; *A.* Mr. Curzon *July* 8, 1362
- *Fisheries Act Amendment Bill* (see that Title)
- *Fisheries*
  - *Board, Scotland*, *Qs.* Mr. J. G. Weir; *As.* Mr. Graham Murray *June* 3, 168; *June* 17, 287
  - *Cruisers*, *Q.* Mr. J. G. Weir; *A.* Mr. Macartney *June* 1, 23
  - *Irish*, *Q.* Mr. G. Murnaghan; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 9, 1463
- *Harbours*
  - *Dingle, Kerry*, *Qs.* Sir T. G. Esmonde, Captain Donelan; *As.* Mr. J. Atkinson *June* 25, 557
  - *Wicklow*
    - *Legislation*, *Q.* Mr. W. Field; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 9, 1471
    - *Loan*, *Q.* Mr. H. C. Plunkett; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 2, 955
- *Herrings, Duty on*, *Q.* Mr. J. G. Weir; *A* Mr. Curzon *June* 1, 27
- *Kinsale Pier*, *Qs.* Dr. A. Commins, Mr. J. C. Flynn; *As.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 9, 1464
- *Merchant Shipping (Undermanning) Bill* (see that Title)
- *Mersey Dock and Harbour Board Bill* (see that Title)
- *Mersey Docks Bill*, *Q.* Mr. J. Daly; *A.* Mr. W. Long *July* 1, 872
- *Morocco Ports, Consular Charges*, *Q.* Sir A. B. Forwood; *A.* Mr. Curzon *July* 8, 1362
- *Mussel Beds, Clyde*, *Q.* Mr. J. G. Weir; *A.* Mr. Graham Murray *June* 3, 164
- *Pier and Harbour Provisional Order (No. 2) Bill* (see that Title)
- *Piers*
  - *Bantry*, *Q.* Mr. J. Gilhooly; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 6, 1222
  - *Kinsale*, *Qs.* Dr. A. Commins, Mr. J. C. Flynn; *As.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 9, 1464
- *Pilotage Provisional Order Bill* (see that Title)
- *Quarantine*, *Q.* Mr. Henniker Heaton; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *June* 1, 15
- *Red Sea Lights*, *Qs.* Sir J. Fergusson; *As.* Mr. Curzon *July* 5, 1102. *Q.* Sir J. Fergusson; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 8, 1349
- *Reported Dangerous Rock in the Atlantic*, *Q.* Mr. J. C. Macdona; *A.* Mr. G. J. Goschen *July* 2, 966
- *Steamer Communication, Highlands and Islands, Scotland*, *Q.* Mr. J. G. Weir; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 2, 956
- *Trawlers, Steam, Injury to Brighton Drift Nets*, *Q.* Mr. Gerald Loder; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *June* 1, 14

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MERCHANT SHIPPING—cont.
- *Trawling, Illegal*
  - *Cruisers*, *Q.* Mr. J. Caldwell; *A.* Mr. G. J. Goschen *July* 1, 865. *Qs.* Mr. Hedderwick, Mr. J. G. Weir; *As.* Mr. G. J. Goschen, Mr. Curzon, Mr. Graham Murray *July* 2, 954
  - *Galway Bay*, *Q.* Mr. W. Field; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 6, 1220
  - *Scottish Waters, in*, *Qs.* Mr. J. G. Weir; *As.* Mr. Graham Murray *June* 3, 163. *Q.* Mr. Hedderwick; *A.* Mr. Austen Chamberlain *June* 28, 648
- *Wicklow Harbour*
  - *Legislation*, *Q.* Mr. W. Field; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 9, 1471
  - *Loan*, *Q.* Mr. H. C. Plunkett; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 2, 955
- *Wreck of S.S. Aden*
  - *Gulf of Aden Light*, *Q.* Sir J. Fergusson; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 2, 955
  - *Inquiry*, *Q.* Mr. Gibson Bowles; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 1, 875

Merchant Shipping (Exemptions from Pilotage) Bill
- *l.* Pres., Marquess of Salisbury; Read 1ª *July* 5, 1037

Merchant Shipping (Undermanning) Bill
- *l.* Read 1ª *June* 1, 5
  - 2R., Earl of Dudley *June* 29, 720
  - Read 2ª and com. to Com. of Whole House *June* 29, 722
  - In Com., Rep. without Amendt. and re-com. to Standing Com. *July* 2, 949
  - Rep. without Amendt. *July* 6, 1197

Mersey Channels Bill
- *l.* Rep. from Standing Com. with Amendts. *June* 1, 5
  - Amendts. Rep. *June* 3, 153
  - Read 3ª with Amendts.; Amendt. made; Passed and Returned to Commons *July* 5, 1083
- *c.* Lords' Amendts. Considered and Agreed to *July* 12, 1581

Mersey Dock and Harbour Board Bill
- *c.* 3R., Mr. T. P. O'Connor, (*Amendt.*) 1084; Mr. W. Field, 1086; Mr. W. Long, 1087; Mr. P. O'Brien, 1088; Sir A. B. Forwood, 1088; Mr. A. F. Warr, 1089; Mr. J. M. Paulton, 1089; (*Amendt. Agreed to*, 1090) *July* 5
  - Re-committed to Former Com. *July* 5, 1090
  - Mr. T. P. O'Connor, (*Instr. to Com.*) 1090; (*Agreed to*, 1090) *July* 5

METROPOLIS

- *Brompton Cemetery*, *Qs.* Sir C. Dilke; *As.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *June* 29, 723
- *Covent Garden*
  - *Market*, *Q.* Mr. Henniker Heaton; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *June* 3, 180
  - *Theatre Fund*, *Q.* Mr. J. F. Hogan; *A.* Sir R. Webster *July* 6, 1223

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METROPOLIS—cont.
Footpaths, Hyde Park and St. James's Park, Qs. Sir H. Fowler; *As.* Mr. Akers-Douglas *June* 29, 743
House of Commons, Distinguished Strangers, Q. Mr. J. F. Hogan; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour *July* 6, 1224
Lambeth Waterworks Company, Q. Mr. C. E. Tritton; *A.* Mr. H. Chaplin *July* 12, 1599
Magnetic Observatory, Greenwich, Q. Lord Hugh Cecil; *A.* Mr. Akers-Douglas *June* 1, 30
Metropolitan
  Asylums Board, Children's Committee, Q. Mr. E. H. Pickersgill; *A.* Mr. H. Chaplin *July* 8, 1364
  Railways, Ventilation, Q. Mr. J. Caldwell; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 1, 866
  Water Companies Bill, Q. Mr. Sydney Buxton; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour *June* 1, 30
  (For Debate see Title of Bill)
National Portrait Gallery, Q. Major Rasch; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 8, 1345
Queen's Reign, Diamond Jubilee (see that Title)
St. Columba's Church Schools, Kingsland Road, Q. Mr. T. Owen; *A.* Sir J. Gorst *June* 3, 170
St. Paul's Cathedral, Qs. Sir Elliott Lees; *As.* Mr. A. J. Balfour *July* 12, 1600
South
  Kensington Museum, Qs. Sir C. Dilke, Mr. T. Lough; *As.* Sir M. Hicks Beach *June* 3, 153
  Metropolitan School, Sutton, Q. Sir S. Montagu; *A.* Mr. H. Chaplin *July* 2, 970
Southwark and Vauxhall Water Bill (see that Title)
Southwark and Vauxhall Water Company, Qs. Mr. R. K. Causton; *As.* Mr. H. Chaplin *July* 12, 1598
Stratford, Drunkenness, Q. Mr. T. P. Whittaker; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *June* 1, 22
Tate Gallery of British Art, Qs. Dr. Farquharson; *As.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 12, 1591
Wallace Bequest, Q. Dr. Farquharson; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour *July* 5, 1124
Water Supply, London, Q. Mr. B. L. Cohen; *A.* Mr. H. Chaplin *June* 21, 433
Westminster Hall, Statuary, Q. Colonel Welby; *A.* Mr. Akers-Douglas *July* 2, 960

Metropolitan and Other Police Courts Bill
c. Read 3° and Passed *July* 1, 936
l. Read 1ª *July* 2, 950
  2R., Lord Belper *July* 9, 1447
  Read 2ª and com. to Com. of Whole House *July* 9, 1448
  In Com., Rep. without Amendt. and re-com. to Standing Com. *July* 12, 1579

Metropolitan Police Courts (Holidays) Bill
Royal Assent *June* 3, 150

Metropolitan Water Companies Bill
c. 2R., Mr. H. Chaplin, 652, 659; Mr. Sydney Buxton, 652; Mr. E. H. Pickersgill, 653; Sir J. Lubbock, 655; Mr. L. R. Holland, 656; Mr. T. Lough, 657; Mr. E. Boulnois, 658; Mr. J. Stuart, 660; Sir R. Webster, 663; Mr. J. Lowles, 664; Lord Hugh Cecil, 664 *June* 28
  Read 2° *June* 28, 667
  (For Questions see METROPOLIS)

MIDLETON, Viscount
  Land Legislation, Ireland *July* 5, 1076

MILBANK, Mr. POWLETT C. J., *Radnor*
  Dog Muzzling, Sheep Dogs *July* 5, 1096

Military Manœuvres Bill
c. Mr. Brodrick, (*Motion for Leave to Intro.*) 1367; Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, 1368; (*Division*, 1369) *July* 8
  Intro., Mr. Brodrick; Read 1° *July* 8, 1369

MILWARD, Colonel VICTOR, *Warwickshire, Stratford-on-Avon*
  Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill, In Com. *June* 1, 90; *June* 2, 137, 139; *June* 3, 227

MISCELLANEOUS QUESTIONS
Adulteration of Food Products, Qs. Mr. A. F. Jeffreys, Major Rasch; *As.* Mr. A. J. Balfour *June* 21, 437
Arabi Pasha, Release of, Queen's Reign, Qs. Sir W. Lawson; *As.* Mr. Curzon *June* 17, 286
Bicycle Lights, Qs. Mr. B. V. Melville, Mr. P. M. Thornton; *As.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *June* 3, 169
Boarding-out Orders, Q. Lord E. Talbot; *A.* Mr. T. W. Russell *June* 25, 559
Coal Supplies, Q. Mr. D. A. Thomas; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour *June* 3, 185
Cocoa Butter, Q. Sir H. Vincent; *A.* Sir M. Hicks Beach *July* 9, 1451
Covent Garden Theatre Fund, Q. Mr. J. F. Hogan; *A.* Sir R. Webster *July* 6, 1223
Customs Boatmen, Q. Mr. H. C. F. Luttrell *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 1, 869
Exchequers of Ireland and Great Britain, Q. Sir T. G. Esmonde; *A.* Sir M. Hicks Beach *June* 25, 558
Experiments on Living Animals, Q. Mr. J. Ellis; *A.* Mr. Jesse Collings *July* 8, 1341
Financial Relations, Great Britain and Ireland, Qs. Sir T. G. Esmonde; *As.* Mr. A. J. Balfour *June* 25, 565; *June* 29, 744
Muzzling Order
  Convictions, Q. Mr. C. E. Schwann; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *July* 9, 1457
  Legislation, Q. Mr. J. W. Wilson; *A.* Mr. W. Long *July* 8, 1349
  Leicester, Q. Mr. W. Hazell; *A.* Mr. W. Long *June* 24, 499
  Sheep Dogs, Qs. Sir C. Dilke, Mr. T. Bayley; *As.* Mr. W. Long *June* 21, 427. *Qs.* Mr. J. O'Connor, Mr. Gibson Bowles; [Mr. Speaker]; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *June* 28, 637. *Q.* Mr. Powlett Milbank; *A.* Mr W. Long *July* 5, 1096

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MISCELLANEOUS QUESTIONS—cont.
National Portrait Gallery, *Q.* Major Rasch; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 8, 1345
Stationery, *Q.* Sir H. Vincent; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *June* 1, 24
Tate Gallery of British Art, *Qs.* Dr. Farquharson; *As.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 12, 1591
Wallace Bequest, *Q.* Dr. Farquharson; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour *July* 5, 1124
Weights and Measures Acts, *Q.* Mr. W. R. Bousfield; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *June* 3, 172

Monckton, Mr. Edward P., *Northamptonshire, N.*
Agricultural Rating Act, 1896 *July* 5, 1097

Monetary Exchanges (British Empire)
Mr. R. G. Webster, (*Notice of Motion*) *June* 21, 423

Montagu, Sir Samuel, Bart., *Tower Hamlets, Whitechapel*
South Metropolitan School, Sutton *July* 2, 970

Moon, Mr. E. R. Pacy, *St. Pancras, N.*
Supply: £238,212 for Diplomatic and Consular Services *June* 24, 538

Morgan, Mr. J. Lloyd, *Carmarthen, W.*
Plumbers' Registration Bill *June* 30, 815
Welsh Land Commission *July* 12, 1599

Morgan, Mr. W. P., *Merthyr Tydvil*
Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill *July* 8, 1391

MORLEY, Earl of (Chairman of Committees [H.L.])
Dublin Corporation Bill, 3R. *July* 2, 946
Lochearnhead, St. Fillans, and Comrie Railway Bill *July* 9, 1437

Morley, Right Hon. John, *Montrose Burghs*
Business of the House, General *June* 3, 186
Land Law Acts (Ireland) Royal Commission *July* 9, 1477, 1478
Land Law (Ireland) Acts *July* 2, 973, 974
Supply: £2,450 for Queen's Colleges, Ireland *July* 9, 1537, 1538

Morris, Lord
Local Government, Ireland *June* 1, 1

Morris, Mr. S., *Kilkenny, S.*
Waterford Dungarvan and Lismore Railway *July* 8, 1356

Morton, Mr. E. J. C., *Devonport*
Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill *July* 8, 1409, 1424, 1431, 1432; *July* 12, 1602

Mumbles Railway and Pier (Extension of Time) Bill
Royal Assent *June* 3, 150

Mundella, Right Hon. A. J., *Sheffield, Brightside*
Education (Scotland) Bill, 2R. *July* 1, 903
Supply
£7,434 for National Gallery *June* 17, 352
£4,306,910 for Public Education, England and Wales *June* 17, 296, 304, 309, 317, 318, 348
£549,992 for Science and Art Department, Salaries and Expenses *June* 17, 351

Municipal Elections (Scotland) Bill
l. Pres., Lord Balfour; Read 1ª *June* 29, 685
2R., Lord Balfour *July* 8, 1336
Read 2ª and com. to Com. of Whole House *July* 8, 1336
In Com., Rep. without Amendt. and re-com. to Standing Com. *July* 9, 1451

Muntz, Mr. P. A., *Warwick, Tamworth*
Plumbers' Registration Bill, *June* 30, 845

Murnaghan, Mr. G., *Tyrone, Mid*
Clogher Valley Tramway *July* 8, 1348
Glebe Tenants, Ireland *July* 8, 1346
Irish Fisheries *July* 9, 1463
Labourers Acts, Ireland *July* 8, 1347
National Schools, Ireland *July* 2, 962
Post Office, Omagh *July* 6, 1218
Supply: £630,291 for National Education, Ireland *July* 2, 1020

MURRAY, Right Hon. A. GRAHAM (Lord Advocate), *Buteshire*
Board School, Scotland *July* 5, 1113
Congested Districts (Scotland) Bill, 2R. *June* 21, 476; In Com. *June* 29, 794, 797, 798, 799, 801, 802, 803, 805, 807, 809; *July* 1, 918, 922, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932
Congested Districts, Scotland, Grants *June* 4, 281; *June* 17, 354, 358
Co-operative Stores, Scotland *June* 1, 19
Culloden House *July* 9, 1469
Education
Department, Scotland *July* 1, 858
Grants, Scotland *June* 21, 458, 460, 461, 462, 470
Education (Scotland) Bill, 1R. *June* 24, 556; 2R. *July* 1, 876, 895, 896, 897, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904
Elementary Education Act (1870) Amendment Bill *June* 28, 645
Finance Bill, In Com. *June* 29, 786
General Register House, Edinburgh *June* 29, 726
Illegal Trawling, Scottish Waters *June* 3, 163; *July* 2, 954
Local Government (Scotland) Act (1894) *June* 24, 503
Lochmaddy Water Scheme *July* 5, 1095, 1096
Mussel Beds, Clyde *June* 3, 164
Prison System, Scotland *July* 1, 869; *July* 12, 1595

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MURRAY, Right Hon. A. GRAHAM—*cont.*
- Public Works and Communications, Scotland *June* 25, 563
- Queen's Reign, Municipal Address *July* 1, 867
- School, Corporal Punishment, Scotland *June* 25, 565
- Scottish
  - Fishery Board *June* 3, 168, 169; *June* 17, 287
  - Prison Officials *June* 29, 741
- Shooting Vermin, Scotland *July* 2, 957
- Supply
  - £27,323 for Fishery Board, Scotland *June* 25, 578, 580
  - £17,500 for Highlands and Islands of Scotland (Public Works and Communications) *June* 25, 623, 625; Report *June* 29, 792
  - £7,951 for Local Government Board (Scotland), Salaries and Expenses *June* 25, 590, 598
  - £2,000 for National Gallery, Scotland *June* 25, 620
  - £604,933 for Public Education, Scotland *June* 25, 614, 615; Report *June* 29, 789
  - £8,111 for Secretary for Scotland Office, Salaries and Expenses *June* 25, 569, 570, 571, 572; Report *June* 29, 787
- Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill, In Com. *June* 3, 243; *June* 4, 276, 279; *July* 5, 1167

MYERS, Mr. W. H., *Winchester*
- Queen's Reign, Jubilee Procession *June* 18, 363
- Winchester Barracks *July* 8, 1349

Naval Works Bill
- *c.* Mr. T. Lough, 1126; Mr. A. J. Balfour, 1126 *July* 5
- In Com., On Motion for Money: Mr. D. Lloyd-George, 1126, 1127; Sir M. Hicks Beach, 1126; [Chairman, 1127;] (*Reso. Agreed to*, 1127) *July* 5
- Reso. Rep. and Agreed to *July* 6, 1294
- Intro., Mr. G. J. Goschen; Read 1° *July* 6, 1294

NAVY
- First Lord—Mr. G. J. GOSCHEN
- Secretary—Mr. W. G. E. MACARTNEY
- Civil Lord—Mr. J. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN
- *Atlantic, Reported Dangerous Rock, Q.* Mr. J. C. Macdona; *A.* Mr. G. J. Goschen *July* 2, 966
- *British and Foreign Navies, Q.* Sir C. Dilke; *A.* Mr. Macartney *June* 24, 498
- *Channel*
  - *Fleet, Qs.* Captain Donelan; *As.* Mr. G. J. Goschen *July* 2, 975
  - *Squadron, Q.* Sir Leonard Lyell; *A.* Mr. Austen Chamberlain *June* 28, 631
- *Fishery Cruisers, Q.* Mr. J. G. Weir; *A.* Mr. Macartney *June* 1, 23
- *Gift of Ironclad by Cape Colony, Q.* Sir J. Colomb; *A.* Mr. G. J. Goschen *July* 12, 1601
- *Hospitals, Q.* Dr. Tanner; *A.* Mr. G. J. Goschen *June* 21, 431

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NAVY—cont.
- *Illegal Trawling*
  - *Cruisers, Q.* Mr. J. Caldwell; *A.* Mr. G. J. Goschen *July* 1, 865. *Qs.* Mr. Hedderwick, Mr. J. G. Weir; *As.* Mr. G. J. Goschen, Mr. Curzon, Mr. Graham Murray *July* 2, 954
  - *Scottish Waters, Q.* Mr. Hedderwick; *A.* Mr. Austen Chamberlain *June* 28. 648
- *Ironclad, Gift of, by Cape Colony, Q.* Sir J. Colomb: *A.* Mr. G. J. Goschen *July* 12, 1601
- *Manœuvres, Q.* Sir E. T. Gourley; *A.* Mr G. J. Goschen *June* 21, 429
- *Naval Review* (see *Queen's Reign* below)
- *Naval Works Bill* (see that Title)
- *Naval Works Loan Bill, Q.* Sir C. Dilke; *A.* Mr. G. J. Goschen *June* 21, 436
- *Navies, British and Foreign, Q.* Sir C. Dilke; *A.* Mr. Macartney *June* 24, 498
- *Pensions*
  - *Crimean Veteran, Owen Smith, Q.* Mr. S. Young; *A.* Mr. Austen Chamberlain *June* 29, 730
  - *Saunders (Michael), Q.* Sir T. G. Esmonde; *A.* Mr. Macartney *July* 9, 1459
- *Petty Officers Drowned, Qs.* Mr. J. Gilhooly; *As.* Mr. Austen Chamberlain *July* 5, 1099
- *Queen's Reign*
  - *Naval Review*
    - *Colonial*
      - *Forces, Qs.* Sir J. Colomb, Mr. Burdett-Coutts; *As.* Mr. G. J. Goschen *June* 21, 424
      - *Members of Parliament, Qs.* Mr. Lees Knowles, Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; *As.* Mr. Macartney *June* 18, 369. *Q.* Mr. J. C. Macdona; *A.* Mr. G. J. Goschen *June* 21, 426
      - *Visitors, Q.* Mr. Gibson Bowles; *A.* Mr. G. J. Goschen *June* 21, 426
    - *Illumination of Fleet, Q.* Mr. J. Aird; *A.* Mr. Macartney *June* 1, 18
    - *Indian and Colonial Troops, Qs.* Mr. J. L. Wanklyn, Mr. W. Allan, Sir J. Colomb; *As.* Mr. G. J. Goschen *June* 18, 364
    - *Overcrowding Steamers, Qs.* Admiral Field; *As.* Sir Matthew White Ridley, Mr. Ritchie *June* 1, 16
    - *Royal Naval Reserve, Q.* Sir G. Baden-Powell; *A.* Mr. G. J. Goschen *June* 21, 424
    - *S.S. Campania, Q.* Mr. C. E. Shaw; [No Answer] *June* 28, 636. *Qs.* Mr. T. Lough, Mr. C. E. Shaw, Mr. J. H. Dalziel, Mr. Gibson Bowles, Mr. E. Robertson; *As.* Mr. Austen Chamberlain *June* 29, 737. *Q.* Sir Cameron Gull; *A.* Mr. Austen Chamberlain *July* 1, 868
  - *Procession, Naval Representatives in, Q.* Admiral Field; *A.* Mr. G. J. Goschen *June* 1, 17. *Q.* Sir J. Colomb; *A.* Mr. G. J. Goschen *June* 3, 156. *Qs.* Admiral Field, Sir J. Colomb; *As.* Mr. G. J Goschen *June* 3, 159
- *Regulations, Q.* Mr. T. Lough; *A.* Mr. G. J. Goschen *July* 6, 1222
- *Reported Dangerous Rock in the Atlantic, Q.* Mr. J. C. Macdona; *A.* Mr. G. J. Goschen *July* 2, 966

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NAVY—cont.
- *Royal Marines, Q.* Sir J. Colomb; *A.* Mr. G. J. Goschen *July* 12. 1592
- *Shipwrights, Q.* General Laurie; *A.* Mr. Macartney *June* 1, 20. *Q.* Mr. S. Woods; *A.* Mr. Macartney *June* 24, 501

Navy and Marines (Wills) Act (1865) Amendment Bill
- Royal Assent *June* 3, 150

Neath Corporation Tramways Bill
- Royal Assent *June* 3, 150

Neath Harbour (Extension of Time) Bill
- Royal Assent *June* 3, 150

NICOL, Mr. DONALD N., *Argyllshire*
- Supply: £17,500 for Highlands and Islands of Scotland, Public Works and Communications *June* 25, 625

NORTHBROOK, Earl of
- Floods Prevention Bill, 2R. *July* 6, 1203, 1204

North London Commercial Permanent Building Society Bill
- Royal Assent *June* 3, 150

NORTON, Captain C. W., *Newington, W.*
- Army Clothing Department *June* 18, 363
- China and Great Britain *July* 9, 1469
- Chin Hills Military Operations, Medal *June* 29, 741
- Discharged Soldiers *June* 4, 266
- Government Servants, Minimum Wage *June* 29, 745
- Queen's Reign
  - Constabulary Force *July* 5, 1109
  - Jubilee Procession *June* 3, 157
- Supply: £83,566 for Home Office, Salaries and Expenses *June* 18, 409, 410
- Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill, In Com. *June* 1, 45, 51
- Wreck, Indian Troopship, *Warren Hastings June* 29, 742

NORTON, Lord
- Discharged Prisoners' Aid Societies *July* 5, 1040
- Sunday Bill, 2R. *June* 29, 713

NUSSEY, Mr. T. W., *Pontefract*
- Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill, In Com. *June* 2, 114, 119

O'BRIEN, Mr. PATRICK, *Kilkenny City*
- Army Pensioners *June* 4, 266
- Asylums, Ireland *July* 2, 960
- Baltimore, Ireland *June* 3, 166
- Business of the House, Supply: Irish Education Votes *June* 28, 648

O'BRIEN, Mr. PATRICK—*cont.*
- Clonghoula National School, Ireland *July* 12, 1593
- Franchise, Ireland *July* 5, 1111
- Irish Judiciary *June* 3, 184
- Kilkenny
  - Petty Sessions *June* 3, 179
  - Telegraph Facilities *June* 3, 167
  - Waterworks *July* 5, 1124
- Letter Boxes *June* 21, 432
- Mersey Dock and Harbour Board Bill, 3R. *July* 5, 1088
- Post Office
  - Leave of Absence *June* 21, 433
  - Petition *June* 21, 427
- Publicans' Licences, Dublin *July* 2, 976
- Queen's Reign
  - Dublin Celebrations *June* 28, 636; *July* 5, 1110
  - Jubilee
    - Day *June* 21, 423
    - Procession *June* 4, 265
- Supply: £630,291 for National Education, Ireland *July* 2, 1007
- Telegraph Facilities, Kilkenny *June* 3, 167

O'CONNOR, Mr. ARTHUR, *Donegal, E.*
- Education (Scotland) Bill, 2R. *July* 1, 880, 892
- Indian Railways *June* 28, 644
- Supply: £137,137 for Public Works and Buildings, Ireland *July* 2, 986

(Rulings as Chairman of Committee)
- *Education Endowments (Ireland) Amendment Bill*
  - The Chairman called attention to the purport of the clause, and pointed out that the hon. Member was going into matters which were hardly relevant to the section *June* 28, 679
  - The Chairman did not think that it would be quite seemly to put a Motion of that kind so soon after the recent decision of the Committee *June* 28, 679
- *Miscellaneous—June* 28, 678

O'CONNOR, Mr. JAMES, *Wicklow, W.*
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- Muzzling Order, Sheep Dogs *June* 28, 637, 638
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- Waterford Dungarvan and Lismore Railway *July* 2, 975

O'CONNOR, Mr. T. P., *Liverpool, Scotland*
- Crete *June* 3, 198, 202
- Finance Bill, In Com. *June* 29, 758
- Mersey Dock and Harbour Board Bill, 3R. *July* 5, 1084, 1090
- Supply
  - £2,771 for Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, Household of *July* 2, 1034
  - £137,137 for Public Works and Buildings, Ireland *July* 2, 994

O'KELLY, Mr. JAMES, *Roscommon, N.*
- Queen's Diamond Jubilee, Address to Her Majesty *June* 21, 452

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OLDROYD, Mr. MARK, *Dewsbury*
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O'MALLEY, Mr. W., *Galway, Connemara*
Supply: £26,247 for Public Works Office, Ireland *July* 9, 1511

ORR-EWING, Mr. C. L., *Ayr Burghs*
Education (Scotland) Bill, 2R. *July* 1, 885

OWEN, Mr. T., *Cornwall. Launceston*
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June 1—John Wareing, Lord Bishop of Carlisle
July 6—John Savile Lumley, Baron Savile, having succeeded to the title on the death of John, Baron Savile by virtue of a special remainder in a patent dated October 27, 1889

Representative Peers for Ireland
Cremorne, Lord, Claim to Vote Established *July* 12, 1541
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Queen and the Commons, *Q.* Mr. T. Bayley; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour *July* 1, 875

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June 21—William Graham Nicholson, esquire, for the County of Hants (Eastern or Petersfield Division)

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July 5—For the County of Roscommon (South) *v.* Luke Patrick Hayden, esquire, deceased

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Parliamentary Elections (Mariners' Votes) Bill

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l. Read 1ª *June* 18, 361
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PAULTON, Mr. J. M., *Durham, Bishop Auckland*

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PEASE, Mr. ALFRED EDWARD, *Yorkshire, N.R., Cleveland*
- Supply: £238,212 for Diplomatic and Consular Services *June* 24, 525
- Transvaal, Sekukuni's Tribe *June* 24, 508

PEASE, Mr. JOSEPH A., *Northumberland, Tyneside*
- British East Africa *June* 3, 183
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- Cottage Homes Bill, 2R. *July* 8, 1435
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- Prisoners' Personal Correction Prohibition Bill, 2R. *July* 8, 1435
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- Supply: £238,212 for Diplomatic and Consular Services *June* 24, 515, 520, 530
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  - *Saunders (Michael)*, *Q.* Sir T. G. Esmonde; *A.* Mr. Macartney *July* 9, 1459
  - *Smith (Owen), Crimean Veteran*, *Q.* Mr. S. Young; *A.* Mr. Austen Chamberlain *June* 29, 730. *Q.* Mr. S. Young; *A.* Mr. Powell-Williams *July* 6, 1211
- *Old Age*, *Q.* Mr. J. Rankin; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour *July* 9, 1475
- *Pensions Commutation Act*, *Q.* Mr. J. G. Weir; *A.* Sir M. Hicks Beach *June* 1, 28
- *Petty Officers (Naval) Drowned*, *Qs.* Mr. J. Gilhooly; *As.* Mr. Austen Chamberlain *July* 5, 1099
- *Poor Law Officers' Superannuation Act (1896) Amendment Bill* (see that Title)

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- *Teachers' (Ireland) Pension Act 1879*, *Q.* Mr. T. M. Healy; *A.* Sir M. Hicks Beach *July* 9, 1452
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  - *Elementary Schools*, *Q.* Mr. J. H. Yoxall; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour *June* 21, 437
  - *Legislation*, *Q.* Mr. R. Ascroft; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour *July* 9, 1477

PERKS, Mr. R. W., *Lincolnshire, Louth*
- Uganda Railway *June* 1, 20
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PICKARD, Mr. B., *York, W.R., Normanton*
- Plumbers' Registration Bill *June* 30, 842
- Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill, In Com. *June* 3, 235, 237, 245; *June* 4, 279, 280; *July* 6, 1256, 1273; *July* 12, 1624, 1640, 1671

PICKERSGILL, Mr. E. H., *Bethnal Green, S.W.*
- Metropolitan Asylums Board, Children's Committee *July* 8, 1364
- Metropolitan Water Companies Bill, 2R. *June* 28, 653
- Police (Property) Bill, In Com. *June* 28, 671
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Pier and Harbour Provisional Order (No. 2) Bill
- *c.* Considered as Amended: Mr. D. Crilly, 5, 6; [Mr. Speaker, 6;] Mr. T. W. Russell, 8, *June* 1

PIERPOINT, Mr. ROBERT, *Warrington*
- Medals, 33rd Regiment *June* 21, 429
- Supply: £19,923 for Temporary Commissions, etc., Salaries and Expenses; Report *July* 5 1188

Pilotage Provisional Order Bill
- *c.* Mr. J. W. Lowther, (*Motion*) 1091; Mr. T. M. Healy, 1091, 1092; Mr. Ritchie, 1092; (*Motion Agreed to*, 1093) *July* 5

PIRIE, Captain DUNCAN V., *Aberdeen, N.*
- British Army in India *July* 9, 1469
- Crete *June* 1, 13
- Plumbers' Registration Bill *June* 30, 825
- Queen's Reign, Jubilee Procession *June* 18, 368
- Supply: £27,323 for Fishery Board, Scotland *June* 25, 572

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c. On Order for Consideration as Amended: General Laurie, (*Amendt.*) 813, 816, 817; Mr. Lloyd Morgan, 815; Mr. Lees Knowles, 815, 816, 817, 820, 825, 826, 827, 828, 835; Mr. H. Hobhouse, 818, 820; Mr. T. W. Russell, 821, 836; Mr. T. P. Whittaker, 823, 825, 826; Captain Pirie, 825; Dr. Farquharson, 827; Mr. Sydney Gedge, 827, 828; Mr. M. Austin, 828; Mr. E. Bond, 828; Mr. J. Burns, 829; Mr. T. T. Bucknill, 833; Mr. A. H. D. Acland, 834, 835, 836; Mr. G. W. Wolff, 836; Mr. J. Wilson (Govan), 836; Mr. J. Ellis, 837; Sir J. Blundell Maple, 838; Mr. J. G. Holburn, 838; Sir J. Leng, 839; Mr. J. Brigg, 840; Mr. A. Wylie, 841; Mr. B. Pickard, 842; Mr. D. F. Goddard, 842; Mr. T. C. T. Warner, 843; Mr. T. Bayley, 844; Mr. P. A. Muntz, 845; Sir B. W. Foster, 845; (*Division*, 847) *June* 30

Considered as Amended: Mr. Lees Knowles, 847, 848, 850; Sir C. Dilke, (*Amendt.*) 847, 848; Mr. J. Burns, 847, 850; Mr. T. W. Russell, 847, 850; Mr. T. C. T. Warner, 848; Mr. Tomlinson, 848; (*Division*, 848); Mr. H. Kimber, (*Amendt.*) 848; Mr. H. Hobhouse, 849; Sir B. W. Foster, 850; (*Division*, 850) *June* 30

Considered as Amended; Debate Resumed: Mr. J. Brigg, (*Amendt.*) 1319; Mr. T. P. Whittaker, 1319, (*Amendt.*) 1326; (*Division*, 1320); Mr. T. C. T. Warner, (*Amendt.*) 1320, 1322, 1323; Mr. T. W. Russell, 1320, 1322, 1323; Sir C. Dilke, 1320; Mr. J. Burns, 1321, 1328; Sir F. S. Powell, 1322, 1323; Mr. Tomlinson, 1323; Sir J. Blundell Maple, 1323, 1328; Sir J. Lubbock, 1324; Mr. G. W. Wolff, 1324; Mr. Lees Knowles, 1324, 1327; General Laurie, 1325, 1328; Sir H. Fowler, 1325; Sir J. T. Brunner, 1325; (*Division*, 1326); (*Amendt. negatived*, 1330) *July* 7

(For Questions see LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD)

PLUNKETT, Hon. HORACE C., *Dublin County, S.*

Supply: £26,247 for Public Works Office, Ireland *July* 9, 1496

Wicklow Harbour Loan *July* 2, 955

Plymouth Corporation Bill

Royal Assent *June* 3, 150

Police Property Bill

c. Read 2º *June* 21, 477

In Com., Mr. E. H. Pickersgill, (*Amendt.*) 671; Sir Matthew White Ridley, 672; (*Amendt. Agreed to*, 672) *June* 28

Rep. *June* 28, 672

Considered as Amended *June* 30, 852

Read 3º and Passed *July* 1, 934

l. Read 1ª *July* 2, 950

2R., Lord Belper *July* 9, 1448

Read 2ª and com. to Com. of Whole House *July* 9, 1449

In Com., Rep. without Amendt., and re-com. to Standing Com. *July* 12, 1579

Polling Arrangements (County Councils) Bill

c. Intro., Mr. E. Bond; Read 1° *July* 9, 1479

Polling Arrangements (Parliamentary Boroughs) Bill

c. Intro., Mr. E. Bond; Read 1° *July* 9, 1479

Poor Law Officers' Superannuation Act (1896) Amendment Bill

c. In Com., Rep. without Amendt. *June* 3, 259

Read 3º and Passed *June* 3, 259

l. Read 1ª *June* 18, 361

2R., Lord Glenesk, 948; Viscount Cross, 948 *July* 2

Read 2ª and com. to Com. of Whole House *July* 2, 948

In Com., Amendts. made; re-com. to Standing Com. *July* 6, 1205

PORTMAN, Viscount

Voluntary Schools Associations *July* 8, 1339

PORTSMOUTH, Earl of

Sunday Bill, 2R. *June* 29, 712

POST OFFICE

Postmaster General—Duke of NORFOLK

Book Post Regulations, Qs. Mr. Henniker Heaton; *As.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 6, 1215

Brilley, Post Office, Hereford, Q. Mr. J. Rankin; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 2, 956

Canadian Mail Service, Qs. General Laurie; *As.* Mr. J. Chamberlain *June* 1, 9

Castlebar Post Office, Q. Dr. R. Ambrose; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 5, 1123

Castleblaney Postal Facilities, Q. Mr. J. Daly; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *June* 29, 733

Clones Post Office, Q. Mr. D. Macaleese; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 1, 859

Cork Post Office, Q. Sir T. G. Esmonde; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 9, 1457

Covent Garden Market, Q. Mr. Henniker Heaton; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *June* 3, 180

Cycles, Q. Mr. Henniker Heaton; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *June* 29, 735

Derry, Postal Facilities, Gulladuff, Q. Mr. T. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 6, 1217

Dundalk Post Office, Q. Mr. T. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 6, 1217

Duty, Q. Mr, W. Field; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 8, 1365

Foreign Letters, Postage, Qs. Mr. Henniker Heaton; *As.* Mr. Hanbury *June* 18, 370

Guide, Post Office, Q. Mr. J. G. Weir; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *June* 3, 182

Highlands and Islands, Scotland, Steamer Communication, Q. Mr. J. G. Weir; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 2, 956

Irish Tourist Traffic, Q. Mr. J. L. Carew; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 6, 1217

Kilkenny Telegraph Facilities, Q. Mr. P. O'Brien; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *June* 3, 167

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- *Letters, Delivery of, Chelsea Barracks, Queen's Reign*, *Q.* Mr. Wootton Isaacson; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *June* 24, 504
- *Lewis Postal Facilities*, *Q.* Mr. J. Caldwell; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 1, 866
- *Mail Service*
  - *Canadian*, *Qs.* General Laurie; *As.* Mr. J. Chamberlain *June* 1, 9
  - *Irish*, *Q.* Mr. E. Crean; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *June* 1, 22. *Qs.* Mr. J. Daly, Mr. D. Macaleese; *As.* Mr. Hanbury *June* 29, 732. *Qs.* Major Jameson, Mr. D. Macaleese; *As.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 2, 950. *Q.* Sir T. G. Esmonde: *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 5, 1105. *Q.* Mr. J. L. Carew; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 8, 1344. *Qs.* Mr. T. M. Healy, Sir T. G. Esmonde, Mr. J. P. Farrell; *As.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 9, 1453. *Q.* Captain Donelan; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 12, 1597
- *National Telephone Company*, *Q.* Mr. J. F. Flannery; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 12, 1585
- *Nottingham*
  - *Postal Service*, *Q.* Mr. J. H. Yoxall; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *June* 3, 167
  - *Telegrams, Delivery of*, *Q.* Mr. E. Bond; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *June* 28, 630
- *Omagh Post Office*, *Q.* Mr. G. Murnaghan; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 6, 1218
- *Parcel Post Facilities*, *Q.* Mr. W. Hazell; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 5, 1100
- *Parish Councils, Scotland*, *Q.* Mr. J. G. Weir; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *June* 3, 180. *Q.* Mr. J. Caldwell; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 1, 860
- *Petition, East Central District*, *Q.* Mr. P. O'Brien; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *June* 21, 427
- *Postage*
  - *Foreign Letters*, *Qs.* Mr. Henniker Heaton; *As.* Mr. Hanbury *June* 18, 370
  - *Rates*, *Qs.* Mr. Henniker Heaton; *As.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 12, 1582
- *Postal*
  - *Arrangements, Somerset*, *Q.* Sir A. F. Acland-Hood; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 5, 1100
  - *Delivery, Ireland*, *Q.* Mr. J. O'Connor; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 2, 974
  - *Facilities*
    - *Castleblaney*, *Q.* Mr. J. Daly; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *June* 29, 733
    - *Gulladuff, Derry*, *Q.* Mr. T. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 6, 1217
    - *Lewis*, *Q.* Mr. J. Caldwell; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 1, 866
    - *Scotland*, *Qs.* Mr. J. G. Weir; *As.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 5, 1116
  - *Reforms*, *Qs.* General Laurie; *As.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 8, 1346
  - *Service, Nottingham*, *Q.* Mr. J. H. Yoxall; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *June* 3, 167
  - *Telegraph Offices, Scotland*, *Qs.* Mr. J. G. Weir; *As.* Mr. Hanbury *June* 4, 261
  - *Union Congress*, *Qs.* Mr. Henniker Heaton; *As.* M. Hanbury *June* 29, 735
- *Postmen, Rural*, *Q.* Mr. H. C. F. Luttrell; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *June* 24, 506

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  - *Brilley, Hereford*, *Q.* Mr. J. Rankin; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 2, 956
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  - Evictions in the Borough *June* 3, 160
  - Illumination of St. Paul's *June* 3, 155, 156
  - Jubilee Day
    - Pay *June* 4, 264
    - Prison Fare *June* 3, 158
    - Traffic *June* 3, 158; *June* 18, 368
  - Metropolitan Fire Brigade *July* 5, 1111
  - Naval Review *June* 1, 16
  - Omnibus Fares *June* 28, 635, 636
- Supply: £83,566 for Home Office, Salaries and Expenses *June* 18, 411, 412, 413
- Treason-felony Prisoners *July* 1, 871, 872
- Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill, In Com. *June* 1, 34, 35, 38, 43, 46, 47, 48, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 62, 65, 78, 83; *June* 2, 104, 113, 114, 122, 124, 135, 136, 139, 140; *June* 3, 206, 207, 208, 218, 243, 247, 248; *June* 4, 274, 275, 280; *July* 5, 1127, 1146. 1152, 1155, 1167, 1176; *July* 6, 1228, 1245, 1249, 1250, 1251, 1252, 1257, 1260, 1261, 1263, 1270, 1273; *July* 8, 1399, 1400, 1402, 1403, 1412, 1413, 1417, 1422, 1430; *July* 12, 1605, 1610, 1619, 1624, 1637, 1638, 1640, 1641, 1658, 1659
  - Answers to Questions *June* 3, 177, 178

RITCHIE, Right Hon. CHARLES T. (President of the Board of Trade), *Croydon*

- Board of Trade Office, Cork *July* 9, 1460
- Clogher Valley Tramway *July* 8, 1348
- Electric Lighting, Kensington and Knightsbridge Company *June* 1, 25
- Engineering Trade Dispute *July* 8, 1366
- Great Northern Railway Company of Ireland *June* 4, 268
- Pilotage Provisional Order Bill *July* 5, 1092
- Queen's Reign, Naval Review *June* 1, 16
- Railway Clearing House Bill *June* 28, 630
- Railway Maps *June* 18, 363
- Red Sea Lights *July* 8, 1349
- Regulations of Railways Act, 1889 *July* 9, 1460

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Ritchie, Right Hon. Charles T.—*cont.*

- Smith *v.* L. & S. W. R. *June* 1, 28
- Steam Trawlers, Injury to Brighton Drift Nets *June* 1, 14
- Ventilation, Metropolitan Railways *July* 1, 866
- Weights and Measures Acts *June* 3, 172
- Weights and Measures (Metric System) Bill, 2R. *June* 21, 477; *June* 29, 733
- Wreck of *S.S. Aden* *July* 1, 875

Roberts, Mr. J. Bryn, *Carnarvonshire, Eifion*

- Plague in India *July* 5, 1123
- Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill, In Com. *June* 2, 139, 141; *July* 6, 1272

Roberts, Mr. J. Herbert, *Denbigh, W.*

- Business of the House, General *June* 3, 186
- Earthquake, India *June* 24, 509; *July* 9, 1467
- Mynydd-y-Gwair Common *June* 3, 165
- Poona Outrages *July* 1, 864
- Post Office Savings Bank *July* 9, 1467
- State of Jhalawar *July* 12, 1594
- Sterling Loan, India *July* 9, 1467
- Tithe Map, Denbighshire *July* 9, 1456
- Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill, In Com. *June* 3, 238

Robertson, Mr. Edmund, *Dundee*

- Business of the House, General *July* 8, 1366
- Education Department, Scotland *July* 1, 858
- Engineering Trade Dispute *July* 8, 1365
- Gibraltar, Sanitary Works *July* 12, 1596
- Queen's Reign, Naval Review *June* 29, 739
- Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill, In Com. *June* 1, 47; *June* 4, 275; *July* 8, 1394, 1397

Robson, Mr. W. S., *South Shields*

- Supply: £238,212 for Diplomatic and Consular Services *June* 24, 534
- Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill *July* 6, 1239, 1269
- Wounding an English Sailor at Venice *June* 21, 434

Rollit, Sir Albert K., *Islington, S.*

- Business of the House, Supply: Post Office Estimates *June* 21, 436
- Port Office Sorters *June* 21, 436
- Supply: £238,212 for Diplomatic and Consular Services *June* 24, 539

Round, Mr. James, *Essex, Harwich*

- Destruction of Crops, Essex *July* 1, 870

Royal Commissions

- *Historical Manuscripts* (see Parliament: *Commons, Business of the House, etc. Supply*)
- *Irish Land* (see Ireland)
- *Land Law (Ireland) Acts* (see Ireland)
- *Local Taxation* (see Local Government Board)
- *Water Supply (London)* (see Local Government Board)
- *Welsh Land* (see Wales)

RUSSELL, General F. S., *Cheltenham*
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RUSSELL, MR. T. W. (Secretary to the Local Government Board), *Tyrone, S.*
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Verminous Persons Bill, 3R. *July* 7, 1307, 1317

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Queen's Diamond Jubilee, Address to Her Majesty *June* 21, 417, 422
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SAMUEL, Mr. HARRY S., *Tower Hamlets, Limehouse*
Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill *July* 8, 1428, 1429

SAMUEL, Mr. J., *Stockton-on-Tees*
Adjournment of the House *June* 28, 681
Finance Bill, In Com. *June* 3, 252
Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill, In Com. *June* 1, 44 ; *June* 2, 113 ; *July* 6, 1262 ; *July* 8, 1413, 1429

SAUNDERSON, Colonel E. J., *Armagh, N.*
Queen's Diamond Jubilee, Address to Her Majesty *June* 21, 452

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Army Schoolmasters, *Q.* Mr. J. H. Yoxall ; *A.* Mr. Brodrick *June* 3, 168
Berriew School Bill (see that Title)
Board
North Mundham, Church Catechism, *Q.* Mr. J. C. Williams ; *A.* Sir J. Gorst *June* 28, 640
Scotland, *Q.* Mr. J. Wilson (Falkirk) ; *A.* Mr. Graham Murray *July* 5, 1113
Church Catechism, North Mundham Board *Q.* Mr. J. C. Williams ; *A.* Sir J. Gorst, *June* 28, 640
Cloughoula National, Ireland, *Qs.* Mr. P. O'Brien ; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour, Mr. Hanbury *July* 12, 1593

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Schools—cont.
Corporal Punishment, Scotland, *Q.* Sir C. Cameron ; *A.* Mr. Graham Murray, *June* 25, 565
Education Department Report, Maintenance, *Q.* Viscount Cranborne ; *A.* Sir J. Gorst *July* 5, 1103
Elementary, Teachers' Superannuation *Q.* Mr. J. H. Yoxall ; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour *June* 21, 437
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Cloughoula, *Qs.* Mr. P. O'Brien ; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour, Mr. Hanbury *July* 12, 1593
General, *Qs.* Mr. J. Daly, Mr. J. Dillon, Mr. G. Murnaghan, Mr. J. Gibney ; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour, Mr. Hanbury *July* 2, 961
Irish Language, *Q.* Mr. T. M. Healy ; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 12, 1597
Teachers' Pension Fund, *Q.* Mr. J. L. Carew ; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *June* 4, 267. *Qs.* Dr. Tanner, Captain Donelan ; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *June* 21, 430. *Q.* Mr. J. Daly ; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *June* 29, 740
Maintenance, Education Department Report, *Q.* Viscount Cranborne ; *A.* Sir J. Gorst, *July* 5, 1103
St. Columba's Church, Kingsland Road, *Q.* Mr. T. Owen ; *A.* Sir J. Gorst *June* 3, 170
Science and Art, Nantwich, *Q.* Mr. H. J. Tollemache ; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 1, 861
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Board, *Q.* Mr. J. Wilson (Falkirk) ; *A.* Mr. Graham Murray *July* 5, 1113
Corporal Punishment, *Q.* Sir C. Cameron ; *A.* Mr. Graham Murray *June* 25, 565
South Metropolitan, Sutton, *Q.* Sir S. Montagu ; *A.* Mr. H. Chaplin *July* 2, 970
Teachers
Pensions, National Schools (Ireland), *Q.* Mr. J. L. Carew ; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *June* 4, 267. *Qs.* Dr. Tanner, Captain Donelan ; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *June* 21, 430. *Q.* Mr. J. Daly ; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *June* 29, 740
Superannuation
Elementary, *Q.* Mr. J. H. Yoxall ; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour *June* 21, 437
Legislation, *Q.* Mr. R. Ascroft ; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour *July* 9, 1477
Voluntary
Associations, *Q.* Mr. Wingfield-Digby ; *A.* Sir J. Gorst *June* 18, 371. *Qs.* Lord Wantage, Lord Heneage, Viscount Portman ; [*Obs.* Lord Halsbury ;] *As.* Duke of Devonshire *July* 8, 1337
(For Debate see under Title VOLUNTARY SCHOOLS)
Rate, Didsbury, *Q.* Mr. J. C. Williams ; *A.* Mr. H. Chaplin *June* 28, 639
Voluntary Schools Act 1897, *Q.* Sir J. T. Brunner ; *A.* Sir J. Gorst *June* 3, 171

SCHWANN, Mr. C. E., *Manchester, N.*
Business of the House, General *July* 2, 979
Muzzling Order *July* 9, 1457
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SCOBLE, Sir A. R., *Hackney, Central*
Summary Jurisdiction Act (1879) Amendment Bill, Intro. *June* 25, 566

SCOTLAND
  Secretary for—Lord Balfour
  Lord Advocate—Mr. A. Graham Murray
  Solicitor General—Mr. C. Scott Dickson
- *Board Schools, Q.* Mr. J. Wilson (Falkirk); *A.* Mr. Graham Murray *July* 5, 1113
- *Clyde Mussel Beds, Q.* Mr. J. G. Weir; *A.* Mr. Graham Murray *June* 3, 164
- *Congested Districts (Scotland) Bill* (see that Title)
- *Consultative Council of Agriculture, Q.* Sir M. Stewart; *A.* Mr. W. Long *July* 2, 958
- *Co-operative Stores, Q.* Dr. G. B. Clark; *A.* Mr. Graham Murray *June* 1, 19
- *Culloden House, Q.* Mr. J. McLeod; *A.* Mr. Graham Murray *July* 9, 1468
- *Edinburgh, General Register House, Q.* Mr. R. Cox; *A.* Mr. Graham Murray *June* 29, 725
- *Education Department, Q.* Mr. E. Robertson; *A.* Mr. Graham Murray *June* 1, 858
- *Education (Scotland) Bill* (see that Title)
- *Elementary Education Act (1870) Amendment Bill, Q.* Mr. R. B. Haldane; *A.* Mr. Graham Murray *June* 28, 645
- *Fishery Board, Qs.* Mr. J. G. Weir; *As.* Mr. Graham Murray *June* 3, 168; *June* 17, 287
- *General Rejister House, Edinburgh, Q.* Mr. R. Cox; *A.* Mr. Graham Murray *June* 29, 725
- *Herrings, Duty on, Q.* Mr. J. G. Weir; *A.* Mr. Curzon *June* 1, 27
- *Highlands and Islands, Steamer Communication, Q.* Mr. J. G. Weir; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 2, 956
- *Illegal Trawling, Qs.* Mr. J. G. Weir; *As.* Mr. Graham Murray *June* 3, 163. *Q.* Mr. Hedderwick; *A.* Mr. Austen Chamberlain *June* 28, 648. *Q.* Mr. J. Caldwell; *A.* Mr. Mr. G. J. Goschen *July* 1, 865. *Qs.* Mr. Hedderwick, Mr. J. G. Weir; *As.* Mr. G. J. Goschen, Mr. Curzon, Mr. Graham Murray *July* 2, 954
- *Jubilee Medals for Provosts, Q.* Mr. T. R. Buchanan; *A.* Mr. Graham Murray *July* 1, 867
- *Lewis, Postal Facilities, Q.* Mr. J. Caldwell; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 1, 866
- *Local Government (Scotland) Act 1894, Q.* Sir W. Wedderburn; *A.* Mr. Graham Murray *June* 24, 502
- *Lochearnhead, St. Fillans, and Comrie Railway Bill* (see that Title)
- *Lochmaddy Water Scheme, Qs.* Sir C. Cameron; *As.* Mr. Graham Murray *July* 5, 1095
- *Market Gardeners Compensation (Scotland) Bill* (see that Title)
- *Municipal Elections (Scotland) Bill* (see that Title)
- *Mussel Beds, Clyde, Q.* Mr. J. G. Weir; *A.* Mr. Graham Murray *June* 3, 164
- *Parish Councils, Q.* Mr. J. G. Weir; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *June* 3, 180. *Q.* Mr. J. Caldwell; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 1, 860
- *Postal*
  - *Facilities*
    - *Lewis, Q.* Mr. J. Caldwell; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 1, 866
    - *Scotland, Qs.* Mr. J. G. Weir; *As.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 5, 1116
  - *Telegraph Offices, Qs.* Mr. J. G. Weir; *As.* Mr. Hanbury *June* 4, 261

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- *Prison*
  - *Officials, Scottish, Q.* Mr. Hedderwick; *A.* Mr. Graham Murray *June* 29, 741
  - *System, Qs.* Mr. Hedderwick; *As.* Mr. Graham Murray *July* 1, 869; *July* 12, 1595
- *Public Works and Communications, Q.* Mr. J. P. Smith; *A.* Mr. Graham Murray *June* 25, 562
- *Queen's Reign, Medals for Provosts, Q.* Mr. T. R. Buchanan; *A.* Mr. Graham Murray *July* 1, 867
- *School Corporal Punishment, Q.* Sir C. Cameron; *A.* Mr. Graham Murray *June* 25, 565
- *Scottish*
  - *Fishery Board, Qs.* Mr. J. G. Weir; *As.* Mr. Graham Murray *June* 3, 168; *June* 17, 287
  - *Prison Officials, Q.* Mr. Hedderwick; *A.* Mr. Graham Murray *June* 29, 741
- *Shooting Vermin, Q.* Sir M. Stewart; *A.* Mr. Graham Murray *July* 2, 957
- *Telegraph*
  - *Offices, Postal, Qs.* Mr. J. G. Weir; *As.* Mr. Hanbury *June* 4, 261
  - *Service, Q.* Sir J. Leng; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *June* 3, 171
- *Trawling, Illegal* (see sub-head *Illegal Trawling* above)

Seely, Mr. Charles H., *Lincoln*
- Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill, In Com. *June* 2, 102, 110; *July* 5, 1179

Seton-Karr, Mr. H., *St. Helen's*
- Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill, In Com. *June* 1, 58, 60, 62, 65; *June* 3, 207, 212, 217; *July* 6, 1233, 1240, 1247, 1249; *July* 8, 1375; *July* 12, 1606, 1617, 1642

Shaw, Mr. Charles E., *Stafford*
- Queen's Reign, Naval Review *June* 28, 636; *June* 29, 737, 738

Shaw, Mr. Thomas, *Hawick Burghs*
- Congested Districts (Scotland) Bill, 2R. *June* 21, 475
- Education (Scotland) Bill, 2R. *July* 1, 876, 880, 896, 904
- Supply: £7,951 for Local Government Board (Scotland), Salaries and Expenses *June* 25, 591

Shee, Mr. J. J., *Waterford, W.*
- Allotments in Ireland *June* 29, 743

Shipwrecks
- *Aden*
  - *Gulf of Aden, Light, Q* Sir J. Fergusson; *A* Mr. Hanbury *July* 2, 955
  - *Inquiry, Q.* Mr. Gibson Bowles; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 1, 875
  - *Warren Hastings, Indian Troopship, Q.* Captain Norton; *A.* Mr. Brodrick *June* 29, 742 *Qs.* Mr. J. L. Wanklyn; *As.* Mr. Brodrick *July* 2, 967 *Qs.* Mr. P. M. Thornton; *As.* Lord G. Hamilton *July* 12, 1589

SIMEON, Sir J. S. BARRINGTON, Bart., *Southampton*
  Chester Military District *July* 12, 1584
  Election Law *July* 12, 1594

SINCLAIR, Captain John, *Forfarshire*
  Business of the House, General *July* 2, 978
  Congested Districts (Scotland) Bill, In Com. *July* 1, 925
  Queen's Reign, Jubilee Procession *June* 3, 159

SKEWES-COX, Mr. T., *Surrey, Kingston*
  Southwark and Vauxhall Water Bill *June* 24, 493

SMITH, Mr. J. PARKER, *Lanarkshire, Partick*
  Business of the House, General *July* 12, 1603
  Chaff-cutting Machines (Accidents) Bill *July* 9, 1476
  Congested Districts, Scotland, Grants *June* 17, 357
  Education, Scotland, Grants *June* 3, 256; *June* 21, 467
  Local Government (Scotland) Act (1894) Amendment Bill, Intro. *June* 1, 32
  Public Works and Communications, Scotland *June* 25, 562
  Supply
    £238,212 for Diplomatic and Consular Services *June* 24, 515, 538
    £17,500 for Highlands and Islands of Scotland (Public Works and Communications) *June* 25, 621
  Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill, In Com. *June* 1, 75, 86, 93; *June* 2, 108, 110, 111, 136, 137, 138; *June* 3, 216, 218, 229, 243; *June* 4, 279; *July* 5, 1139, 1162, 1167, 1179; *July* 6, 1239, 1248, 1254, 1281; *July* 8, 1415, 1426, 1432; *July* 12, 1610, 1628, 1631, 1653, 1659, 1663, 1664

SMITH, Mr. SAMUEL, *Flintshire*
  Calcutta Riots *July* 9, 1465
  Elementary Education (Continuation Schools) Bill, Intro. *June* 1, 32
  Indian Financial Statement *June* 3, 173

Southwark and Vauxhall Water Bill
  c. Considered: Mr. J. Stuart, (*Amendt.*) 485, 497; Mr. J. Bigwood, 488; Mr. J. Rankin, 489; Sir J. Pease, 490; Sir F. Dixon-Hartland, 491; Mr. T. Skewes-Cox, 493; Sir J. Blundell Maple, 493; Mr. Sydney Buxton, 493; Mr. Stuart-Wortley, 494; Mr. C. T. Giles, 495; Mr. H. Chaplin, 496; (*Amendt. withdrawn*, 498) *June* 24

SOUTTAR, Mr. R., *Dumfries-shire*
  Education (Scotland) Bill, 2R. *July* 1, 886
  Education, Scotland, Grants *June* 21, 472
  Supply: £604,933 for Public Education, Scotland *June* 25, 606
  Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill *July* 8, 1383, 1412

Speaker, Mr.
THE RIGHT HON.
WILLIAM COURT GULLY, Q.C., *Carlisle*
Petitions
  It is a matter for the House, and not for me, to say whether the Petition should lie upon the Table. Certainly it does appear to me to be couched in language to which we are not accustomed *July* 6, 1209.
  I have not had an opportunity of looking into the matter, but I am not aware that there is any precedent for a Motion of that kind at this stage. I would therefore suggest to the hon. Gentleman that, the opinion of the House having been indicated, he should let the matter drop *July* 6, 1210
  An hon. Member who presents a Petition must exercise his own discretion in doing so. The right hon. Gentleman has in this case exercised his own discretion *July* 6, 1210
  The Rule of the House, which requires that a Petition shall be in writing, and not printed, was made long before typewriting was known, and therefore contains no reference to typewriting. I am bound to say that the document in question which has been handed to me is in print, and therefore is not in conformity with the Rule. It is quite possible that the House may be disposed to alter the Rule, but as long as it stands it must be conformed to. In my view typewriting is in the nature of printing, and not of writing *July* 7, 1297
  The Petitioners must be informed of the Order of the House in the matter. The Rule binds the House itself as well as the Committees on public Petitions. *July* 7, 1297

Queen's Diamond Jubilee
  Address to Her Majesty
    As it is more than 36 years since an Address was presented to Her Majesty by the Whole House, perhaps it would be convenient if I were to refer to the two points raised by the right hon. Baronet's Question. [*Cheers.*] As regards dress I understand it is usual for Members to go to the Palace in morning dress, except that Privy Councillors usually wear *levée* dress. As regards the mode of arriving at the Palace, shortly after Prayers I shall proceed through St. Stephen's Hall and Westminster Hall to New Palace Yard followed by hon. Members, and thence drive at a walking pace to Buckingham Palace. I believe it has been usual for the bulk of hon. Members to follow on foot. [*Cheers.*] Those hon. Members, however, who wear *levée* dress frequently go in carriages. Of course, all hon. Members are at liberty if they choose to use carriages. I may add that going on foot materially facilitates the ingress to and egress from the Palace. After Her

[*cont.*

SPEAKER, Mr.—*cont.*

Queen's Diamond Jubilee—cont.

Address to Her Majesty—cont.

Majesty has received the Address I shall return directly to the House and report to the House Her Majesty's Gracious Answer to the Address. Afterwards, in accordance with the Motion about to be put, I shall adjourn the House at once without question put *June* 21, 456

Commemoration Service

So far as the matter lies with me, I propose that the same course should be followed that was followed on the last occasion. That is, that I should enter the House from behind the Chair a quarter of an hour before the time fixed for service, which, in this case, is half-past 11, and that I should take my seat in the Clerk's chair for a few minutes. Then, that I should go into the Lobby, and, with the small procession which is usually formed on such an occasion, proceed through St. Stephen's Hall into Westminster Hall, where we should be joined by others who are not Members of this House. We should go through Westminster Hall into Palace Yard, and so to the west door of St. Margaret's Church. The usual course I believe, is for the Speaker to be followed immediately by the Privy Councillors, and the other Members of the House will follow them *June* 17, 292.

I think any such Amendment would be unusual and irregular. The Motion must either be accepted or refused. It is a Motion that has been proposed in this form on every occasion that this House has attended St. Margaret's Church *July* 2, 979

Communications to the House

Mr. SPEAKER announced and read Communications from the Italian Parliament and People, and from the Argentine Republic *June* 23, 482, 483

Questions

The hon. Member's Question does not arise out of the right hon. Gentleman's answer *June* 29, 728

The statement as to there having been a murderous outrage at Poona is a statement of fact, which, if I recollect aright, has already been quoted in this House by a Minister of the Crown. As regards the latter part of the Question, I see nothing irregular in it *July* 1, 863

That is really arguing the question. The noble Lord has simply stated that there will be an inquiry into the matter, and that does not justify the hon. Member in arguing the question that there are other means which would make it unnecessary to hold such an inquiry *July* 1, 863

I have had some experience with reference to the process of revising the Standing Orders. It generally takes a good deal of time. The right hon. Member asked me what alteration was necessary. I must respectfully decline to draft an

[*cont.*

SPEAKER, Mr.—*cont.*

Questions—cont.

amendment to the Standing Orders at a moment's notice. *July* 9, 1476

I think I should be taking too much upon myself if I gave such directions. It has always been the practice to put down these Bills for consideration as amended on their being reported to the House. They then appear among the Orders of the Day, and if they have not yet been reprinted when the Order is called on, hon. Members have sometimes brought that fact to the attention of the Chair, which generally suggests that the Bill should not be taken until the House has had an opportunity of seeing and considering the Amendments made in Committee. But this is a matter in which the House must take care of itself *July* 9, 1476

The hon. Member is under a mistake in saying that such an Amendment can only be moved by the Government. I understand he is referring to an Amendment which would be out of order, because it would increase taxation. That would be out of order on the Report Stage from whatever portion of the House it was moved *July* 12, 1602

Rules and Order of Debate

The hon. Member is probably aware that in the cases of private Bills, it is not at all uncommon for statements to be circulated on one side and on the other, and I do not think that the hon. Gentleman has laid before the House anything in the nature of a Breach of Privilege. With regard to the circular in question having been distributed in the Central Lobby, I must say I do not think the Lobby is the right place for circulating such documents. I will, at all events, make inquiries and see that no attempts of an objectionable kind are made to canvass Members in the Lobby *June* 1, 6

The hon. Member's remarks hardly bear on the question before the House. If the Bill were referred to a Select Committee it would afterwards come before a Committee of the Whole House in the ordinary way, when the hon. Member would have an opportunity for his remarks *June* 21, 478

I must call attention to the fact that it is irregular to interpose a statement between business appointed "at the commencement of Public Business" and the Orders of the Day; but, as I presume the right hon. Gentleman is about to make a statement with respect to the Business of the House, no doubt the House will accord the right hon. Gentleman its indulgence *June* 25, 566

The hon. Member is discussing the merits of the Bill itself to an extent beyond what is admissible under this Motion *June* 28, 668

The Amendment of the hon. Member for Renfrew seems to me to be out of order, being outside the scope of the Bill. It is

[*cont.*

SPEAKER, Mr.—cont.
Rules and Order of Debate—cont.
impossible to introduce in this Bill an Amendment to deprive a large class of persons, who are neither the employers nor the employed, of their common law rights *July* 5, 1145
The workman may sue the third person, and the Bill only gives the employer the same right that the workman possesses. The Amendment is clearly out of order *July* 5, 1146
It appears to me that this is not strictly an Amendment to the Amendment of the right hon. Gentleman the Home Secretary. It can be moved as an Amendment after that Amendment has been carried *July* 5, 1177
It would not be in order to open a discussion on that Amendment upon the Amendment now before the House *July* 5, 1180
The hon. Member has an Amendment on the Paper respecting the cleaning of machinery, and he will not be in order in discussing the matter in detail on that Amendment as well as on the present Amendment *July* 6, 1247
The hon. Member will not be in order in discussing on this Bill the policy of the Government in taking or giving any particular Wednesday *July* 7, 1317
The hon. Member is now discussing the policy of the Bill, and not the particular Amendment before the House *July* 8, 1374
The hon. Member for Dumfries-shire has an Amendment on this point on the Paper, and he had better argue it now, as the adoption of the right hon. Gentleman's Amendment will defeat the object of it, by affirming that there should be some limit of height *July* 8, 1412
I think that objection is valid. The Amendment would certainly increase the charges on the Treasury, and therefore cannot be moved at this stage of the Bill *July* 8, 1432
The hon. Gentleman cannot go into these calculations. The question before the House is, whether the Bill is to come into operation in March or in July *July* 12, 1606

Miscellaneous Rulings
June 1, 13, 14; *June* 3, 153; *June* 17, 292; *June* 21, 456; *June* 25, 565, 627; *June* 28, 636, 638; *June* 29, 740; *July* 2, 974; *July* 5, 1137, 1153, 1180; *July* 6, 1243, 1268; *July* 8, 1380, 1401, 1407; *July* 12, 1602, 1606, 1626, 1662, 1671

SPENCER, Earl
Floods Prevention Bill, 2R. *July* 6, 1204
Voluntary Schools Associations *July* 12, 1567

SPICER, Mr. A., *Monmouth Boroughs*
Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill, In Com. *June* 3, 239

STANHOPE, Earl
Discharged Prisoners' Aid Societies *July* 5, 1037, 1043

STANHOPE, Hon. P. J., *Burnley*
Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill *July* 6, 1246; *July* 12, 1669

STANLEY OF ALDERLEY, Lord
Indian Judicature *July* 9, 1437, 1444

STANLEY, Mr. H. M., *Lambeth, N.*
Electric Lighting, Kensington and Knightsbridge Company *June* 1, 25

STANMORE, Lord
Voluntary Schools Associations *July* 12, 1554, 1555, 1571

Steam Engines and Boilers (Persons in Charge) Bill
c. Withdrawn *July* 12, 1679

STEVENSON, Mr. F. S., *Suffolk, Eye*
Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill *July* 8, 1409

STEWART, Sir MARK J., Bart., *Kirkcudbrightshire*
Consultative Council of Agriculture, Scotland *July* 2, 958
Shooting Vermin, Scotland *July* 2, 957
Supply
£27,323 for Fishery Board, Scotland *June* 25, 583
£7,951 for Local Government Board (Scotland), Salaries and Expenses *June* 25, 587, 591, 593, 596
£604,933 for Public Education, Scotland; Report *June* 29, 790

STRACHEY, Mr. EDWARD, *Somerset, S.*
Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill *July* 6, 1276

STRAUSS, Mr. A., *Cornwall, Camborne*
Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill, In Com. *June* 2, 99, 100

STUART, Mr. JAMES, *Shoreditch, Hoxton*
Metropolitan Water Companies Bill 2R. *June* 28, 660
Science and Art Grants *June* 29, 740
Southwark and Vauxhall Water Bill *June* 24, 485, 497
Supply: £4,306,910 for Public Education, England and Wales *June* 17, 345, 347

STUART-WORTLEY, Right Hon. C. B. (see WORTLEY)

SULLIVAN, Mr. T. D., *Donegal, W.*
Supply: £26,247 for Public Works Office, Ireland *July* 9, 1503

Summary Jurisdiction Act (1879) Amendment Bill
c. Intro., Sir A. R. Scoble; Read 1° *June* 25, 566

Sunday Bill

l. 2R., Lord Hobhouse 686, 702; Lord Bishop of Winchester, 699 702; Earl Cowper, 704; Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, 706, 711; Lord Farrer, 709, 711; Earl of Portsmouth, 712; Lord Norton, 713; Lord Herschell, 714, 717; Lord Archbishop of York, 716; Lord Hobhouse, 716, 717; Lord Halsbury, 717; (*Division*, 718) *June* 29
2R. negatived *June* 29, 719

SUPPLY

£64,876 for Colonial Services, including South Africa
In Com., Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett, 545, 546, 552, 553, 555; Mr. Curzon, 546; Sir C. Dilke, 546, 547, 549, 550, 552; Mr. J. Chamberlain, 548, 549, 550, 552, 554, 555; Mr. Sydney Buxton, 551, 553; Mr. W. F. Lawrence, 551; Captain Bethell, 552; [Chairman, 552, 553]. Vote Agreed to, 556 *June* 24. Report *June* 25, 626

£771,000 for Customs Department, Salaries and Expenses
In Com., Vote Agreed to *June* 24, 556
Report: Mr. J. G. Weir, 627; Mr. Hanbury, 627; [Mr. Speaker, 627;] *June* 25
Reso. Agreed to *June* 25, 627

£238,212 for Diplomatic and Consular Services
In Com., Sir C. Dilke, 511, 536; Mr. J. P. Smith, 515, 538; Captain Bethell, 515, 520, 537; Mr. J. A. Pease, 515, 520, (*Amendt.*) 530; Mr. Curzon, 517, 520, 526, 528, 530, 536, 543, 545; Mr. R. McKenna, 523; Mr. W. F. Lawrence, 524; Mr. A. E Pease, 525; Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett, 526, 528; Mr. J. Dillon, 527, 528, 529, (*Amendt.*) 530; [Chairman, 529, 545;] (*Division*, 530); Sir R. Webster, 530, 534; Sir J. H. Kennaway, 531; Mr. Sydney Buxton, 532; Mr. A. J. Balfour, 532, 533, 537; Sir R. T. Reid, 533, 534; Mr. W. S. Robson, 534; Mr. T. R. Leuty, 535; Mr. J. H. Yoxall, 537; Mr. Sydney Gedge, 537; Mr. Swift MacNeill, 537; (*Division*, 538); Mr. E. R. P. Moon, 538; Sir A. K. Rollit, 539; Mr. J. Brigg, 542; Mr. T. W. Legh, 543; Mr. J. Bryce, 544, 545. Vote Agreed to, 545 *June* 24
Report: Mr. Curzon, 626; Mr. Sydney Gedge, 626 *June* 25
Reso. Agreed to *June* 25, 626

£625 for Endowed Schools Commissioners, Ireland
Report *July* 5, 1187

£40,810 for Exchequer and Audit Department, Salaries and Expenses
In Com., Vote Agreed to *June* 18, 414
Report *June* 21, 479

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SUPPLY—cont.

£27,323 for Fishery Board (Scotland)
In Com., Captain Pirie, 572; Mr. J. G. Weir, 573, 584; Mr. Hedderwick, 573; Sir W. Wedderburn, 574, 580; [Chairman, 574;] Sir R. T. Reid, 576; Mr. T. R. Buchanan, 576; Mr. J. Bryce, 577; Mr. Graham Murray, 578, 580; Mr. R. B. Haldane, 582; Sir M. Stewart, 583; Sir M. Hicks Beach, 583; Mr. Munro Ferguson, 584. Vote Agreed to, 584 *June* 25 Report *June* 29, 788

£5,407 for Friendly Societies Registry Salaries and Expenses
In Com., Vote Agreed to *June* 18, 415. Report *June* 21, 480

£17,500 for Highlands and Islands of Scotland (Public Works and Communications)
In Com., Mr. J. G. Weir, 620, 624; Mr. Munro Ferguson, 621; Mr. J. P. Smith, 621; Mr. Hedderwick, 622, (*Amendt.*) 625; Mr. Graham Murray, 623, 625; Mr. D. N. Nicol, 625; (*Division*, 625). Vote Agreed to, 625 *June* 25
Report: Mr. J. G. Weir, 791; Mr. J. McLeod, 791; Mr. Graham Murray, 792 *June* 29
Reso. Agreed to *June* 29, 792

£83,566 for Home Office, Salaries and Expenses
In Com., Sir C. Dilke, 405, 411; Captain Norton, 409, 410; [Chairman, 410;] Mr. H. H. Asquith, 410; Sir Matthew White Ridley, 411, 412, 413; Mr. J. G. Weir, 412; Mr. R. McKenna, 412, 413. Vote Agreed to, 414 *June* 18. Report *June* 21, 479

£1,721,272 for Inland Revenue Department, Salaries and Expenses
In Com., Vote Agreed to *June* 24, 556
Report: Mr. J. G. Weir, 627; Mr. Hanbury, 628 *June* 25
Reso. Agreed to *June* 25, 628

£7,951 for Local Government Board (Scotland), Salaries and Expenses
In Com., Mr. J. Daly, 585, 596, 598; Mr. J. G. Weir, 586; Mr. P. J. Power, 586; Mr. Serjeant Hemphill, 587; Sir M. Stewart, 587, 591, 593, 596; Sir C. Cameron, 588; Mr. J. F. Flannery, 588; Mr. J. Tully, 589; Mr. Graham Murray, 590, 598; Mr. T. Shaw, 591; Mr. J. Dillon, 592, 593, (*Amendt.*) 596; Mr. Cameron Corbett, 598; Mr. J. Jordan, 599; Mr. J. Colville, 599; (*Division*, 600). Vote Agreed to, 600 *June* 25. Report *June* 29, 788

[*cont.*

SUPPLY—cont.

£2,771 for Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, Household of
In Com., Mr. T. P. O'Connor, 1034; Mr. G. Balfour, 1034, 1035; Mr. J. Dillon, 1034; Dr. Tanner, 1034; Mr. T. M. Healy, 1035; Mr. J. C. Flynn, 1035; [Chairman, 1035;] (*Motion withdrawn*, 1035) *July* 2

£9,725 for Lunacy Commissioners' Office (England), Salaries and Expenses
In Com., Vote Agreed to *June* 18, 415. Report *June* 21, 480

£3,422 for Lunacy Commission (Scotland)
In Com., Vote Agreed to *June* 25, 584. Report *June* 29, 788

£2,350 for Merchant Seamen's Fund, Pensions
In Com., Vote Agreed to *June* 18, 373. Report *June* 21, 479

£42 for the Mint, Salaries and Expenses, including Expenses of Coinage
In Com., Vote Agreed to *June* 18, 415. Report *June* 21, 480

£813 for Miscellaneous Charitable and Other Allowances, Great Britain
In Com., Sir C. Dilke, 373; Mr. Hanbury, 373. Vote Agreed to, 373 *June* 18. Report *June* 21, 479

£3,279 for Miscellaneous Expenses
In Com., Dr. G. B. Clark, 388, 389; Mr. Hanbury, 388, 389. Vote Agreed to, 389 *June* 18. Report *June* 21, 479

£9,138 for National Debt Office, Salaries and Expenses
In Com., Vote Agreed to *June* 18, 415. Report *June* 21, 480

£630,291 for National Education, Ireland
In Com., Mr. T. M. Healy, 995, (*Amendt.*) 997, 999, 1016, 1017; Mr. G. Balfour, 995, 996, 998, 999, 1000, 1006, 1007, 1025, 1026, 1027, 1628, 1033; Mr. J. Dillon, 995, 996, 1001, 1002, 1030; Mr. Hanbury, 996; Mr. J. Daly, 1000, 1007, 1008, 1010; (*Division*, 1001;) Sir M. Hicks Beach, 1002, 1010, 1014, 1017; Mr. Arnold-Forster, 1003; Mr. Serjeant Hemphill, 1005, 1006, 1014; Mr. J. C. Flynn, 1006, 1033; Mr. P. O'Brien, 1007; Sir J. Haslett, 1008; Mr. G.

[*cont.*

SUPPLY—cont.

£630,291 for National Education, Ireland—cont.
Murnaghan, 1020; Mr. E. H. Carson, 1021, 1026, 1027, 1029; Mr. Swift MacNeill, 1028; Mr. J. Caldwell, 1032; [Chairman, 1033]. Vote Agreed to, 1033 *July* 2
Report: Mr. J. Dillon, 1185, 1187; Sir T. G. Esmonde, 1186; Mr. J. G. Weir, 1186; Mr. G. Balfour, 1186, 1187 *July* 5
Reso. Agreed to *July* 5, 1187

£7,434 for National Gallery
In Com., Mr. W. Woodall, 352; Mr. Hanbury, 352; Mr. A. J. Mundella, 352. Vote Agreed to, 352 *June* 17
Report: Dr. G. B. Clark, 415; Mr. Hanbury, 416 *June* 18
Reso. Agreed to *June* 18, 416

£1,697 for National Gallery, Ireland
In Com., Vote Agreed to *July* 2, 1033. Report *July* 5, 1187

£2,000 for National Gallery, Scotland
In Com., Mr. J. G. Weir, 619; Mr. Graham Murray, 620. Vote Agreed to, 620 *June* 25. Report *June* 29, 791

£3,613 for National Portrait Gallery
In Com., Dr. Tanner, 352, 353; Mr. Hanbury, 353. Vote Agreed to, 353 *June* 17. Report *June* 18, 416

£132,859 for Privy Council Office for Trade, Salaries and Expenses
Reso. Agreed to *June* 21, 478

£4,306,910 for Public Education (England and Wales)
In Com., Sir J. Gorst, 293, 296, 298, 315, 318, 331, 338, 340, 345, 347, 348, 349; Mr. A. J. Mundella, 296, 304, 309, 317, 318, 348; Viscount Cranborne, 298, 308, 309, 321; Mr. J. H. Yoxall, 298; Sir J. Lubbock, 303; Sir W. Hart Dyke, 305; Mr. D. Brynmor Jones, 307; Mr. W. Jones, 307; Mr. J. C. Williams, 311, 318, 337; Mr. G. Kemp, 314; Colonel Mellor, 318; Mr. E. Gray, 319, 321; Sir F. S. Powell, 323; Mr. R. McKenna, 325; [*Chairman*, 325, 328;] Mr. E. Hubbard, 325; Mr. R. Purvis, 327; Mr. J. Caldwell, 328, 344; Mr. W. Woodall, 335, 348, 349; Mr. H. S. Foster, 337; Mr. D. Lloyd-George, 338, (*Amendt.*) 339, 349; Mr. T. Ellis, 341, 342; Sir M. Hicks Beach, 342; Mr. Ellis Griffith, 343; Mr. J. Brigg, 344; Mr. J. Stuart, 345, 347; (*Division*, 349); Lord Hugh Cecil, (*Amendt.*) 349, 350; Mr. A. J. Balfour, 350; (*Amendt. negatived*, 350). Vote Agreed to, 350 *June* 17. Report *June* 18, 415

[*cont.*

SUPPLY—cont.

£604,933 for Public Education, (Scotland)
In Com., Sir J. Leng, 600, 614; Mr. J. Wilson (Falkirk), 604, (*Amendt.*) 618; Dr. Farquharson, 605; Sir W. Wedderburn, 605; Mr. R. Soutar, 606; Mr. J. Colville, 608; Mr. A. Wylie, 608, 619; Mr. Hedderwick, 608; Mr. J. Caldwell, 609; Mr. J. A. Campbell, 612; Mr. Graham Murray, 614, 615; (*Division*, 619). Vote Agreed to, 619 *June* 25
Report: Mr. J. G. Weir, 789; Mr. Graham Murray, 789; Mr. Hedderwick, 789; Mr. J. McLeod, 789; Sir T. G. Esmonde, 790; Mr. W. Jones, 790; Sir M. Stewart, 790; Mr. Ellis Griffith, 790; Mr. R. Cameron, 791; (*Division*, 791) *June* 29
Reso. Agreed to *June* 29, 791

£3,880 for Public Record Office (Ireland)
In Com., Vote Agreed to *July* 2, 1035. Report *July* 5, 1187

£14,464 for Public Record Office, Salaries and Expenses
In Com., Vote Agreed to *June* 18, 415. Report *June* 21, 480

£137,137 for Public Works and Buildings (Ireland)
In Com., Mr. Swift MacNeill, 980, 989, 993; Sir T. G. Esmonde, 981; Mr. T. M. Healy, 982, 989; Mr. Arnold-Forster, 984; Mr. J. Dillon, 984, 985, (*Amendt.*) 992; Mr. Hanbury, 985, 987, 989, 990, 992; Mr. A. O'Connor, 986; Mr. M. Davitt, 989; Mr. W. Johnston, 991; Mr. J. Daly, 991, 992; Mr. P. J. Power, 992; [Chairman, 993, 994;] Mr. T. P. O'Connor, 994; (*Division*, 994). Vote Agreed to, 994 *July* 2. Report *July* 5, 1185

£4,591 for Public Works Loan Commission, Salaries and Expenses
In Com., Vote Agreed to *June* 18, 415. Report *June* 21, 480

£26,247 for Public Works Office (Ireland)
In Com., Mr. P. J. Power, 1480, (*Amendt.*) 1497; Dr. A. Commins, 1483; Mr. T. M. Healy, 1484, 1493, 1495, 1502, 1523; Mr. Serjeant Hemphill, 1486, 1487, 1494, 1510, 1511; Mr. E. H. Carson, 1487, 1520; Mr. J. Redmond, 1489, 1495; Mr. Hanbury, 1492, 1493, 1494, 1495, 1497, 1519, 1520, 1521, 1523; Mr. H. C. Plunkett, 1496; Mr. G. Balfour, 1497, 1502, 1511; Major Jameson, 1497, 1504; (*Division*, 1497;) Mr. T. D. Sullivan, 1503; Mr. J. G. Butcher, 1506; Mr. Vesey Knox, 1506, 1517, 1521; Mr. D. Kilbride, 1507; Mr. M. Davitt, 1511;
[*cont.*

SUPPLY—cont.

£26,247 for Public Works Office (Ireland)—cont.
Mr. W. O'Malley, 1511; Mr. J. Dillon, 1512, 1518, 1522; Mr. J. C. Flynn, 1515, 1520; Captain Donelan, 1516; Mr. M. Austin, 1516; Mr. J. Gilhooly, 1516; Mr. J. Brigg, 1518; Dr. Tanner, (*Amendt.*) 1523; (*Amendt. negatived*, 1523). Vote Agreed to, 1523 *July* 9

£2,450 for Queen's Colleges (Ireland)
In Com., Mr. Swift MacNeill, 1524, 1526, 1527; Mr. J. A. Rentoul, 1526, 1539; Mr. W. E. H. Lecky, 1527; Mr. J. Dillon, 1529; Mr. Arnold-Forster, 1531; Mr. E. H. Carson, 1532; Mr. A. J. Balfour, 1533, 1538; Mr. J. Morley, 1537, 1538; R.P. *July* 9

£19,928 for Railways (Ireland)
In Com., Mr. J. Dillon, 994, 995; [Chairman, 995]; Mr. T. M. Healy, 995; Mr. Hanbury, 995. Vote Agreed to, 995 *July* 2 Report *July* 5, 1185

£27,167 for Registrar General of Births, etc. (England) Department, Salaries and Expenses
In Com., Vote Agreed to *June* 18, 415. Report *June* 21, 480

£3,129 for Registrar General of Births, etc. (Scotland) Department, Salaries and Expenses
In Com., Vote Agreed to *June* 25, 584. Report *June* 29, 788

£549,992 for Science and Art Department, Salaries and Expenses
In Com., Mr. A. J. Mundella, 351; Mr. H. Hobhouse, 351; Mr. A. J. Balfour, 351; (*Motion withdrawn*, 351) *June* 17

£8,111 for Secretary for Scotland Office, Salaries and Expenses
In Com., Sir J. Leng, 567, 568; [Chairman, 568, 569, 570, 572;] Mr. J. G. Weir, 568, 572; Mr. J. Daly, 568, 569, 570, 572; Mr. Graham Murray, 569, 570, 571, 572; Mr. J. Dillon, 570; Mr. T. R. Buchanan, 570, 571; Mr. J. Tully, 572; (*Division*, 572). Vote Agreed to, 572 *June* 25
Report: Mr. J. McLeod, 787, 788; Mr. Graham Murray, 787; Mr. J. G. Weir, 788 *June* 29
Reso. Agreed to *June* 29, 788

£1,128 for Slave Trade Services
In Com., Vote Agreed to *June* 24, 556. Report *June* 25, 627

£34,100 for Subsidies to Telegraph Companies
In Com., Vote Agreed to *June* 24, 556. Report *June* 25, 627
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SUPPLY—cont.

£273,781 for Superannuation, Retired and Compassionate Allowances, Gratuities, etc.
In Com., Vote Agreed to *June* 18, 373. Report *June* 21, 479

£19,923 for Temporary Commissions and Committees, and Special Inquiries, Salaries and Expenses
In Com., Sir C. Dilke, 374, 384, 387; Mr. Hanbury, 374, 378, 380, 382, 384, 387; Dr. G. B. Clark, 374, 377, 381, 382; Sir J. Leng, 375; Mr. Gibson Bowles, 376, 386; Captain Bethell, 377; Mr. J. W. Mellor, 377; Mr. J. H. Dalziel, 377, 385; Mr. J. G. Weir, 380, 386; Mr. A. Ure, 382; Mr. D. Lloyd-George, 383, (*Amendt.*) 384; Mr. W. E. H. Lecky, 385; Mr. Brynmor Jones, 385; Mr. T. Lough, 385, 387; Mr. L. Courtney, 386; Mr. Hedderwick, 386; (*Division*, 386). Vote Agreed to, 388 *June* 18
Report: Mr. R. Pierpoint, 1188; Mr. Hanbury, 1188, 1190, 1192; Mr. Serjeant Hemphill, 1190; Sir T. G. Esmonde, 1190; Mr. J. G. Weir, 1192 *July* 5
Reso. Agreed to *July* 5, 1192

£60,672 for Treasury and Subordinate Departments, Salaries and Expenses
In Com., Mr. Gibson Bowles, 389, 396, 398, 399; Dr. G. B. Clark, 394, 401, 402, 405; Mr. B. L. Cohen, 394; Sir W. Harcourt, 395, 396, 398, 399; Sir M. Hicks Beach, 399; Mr. J. G. Weir, 400; Mr. Hanbury, 401, 403, 405; Dr. Tanner, 401; [Chairman, 401;] Mr. H. Kimber, 402; Mr. P. M. Thornton, 405. Vote Agreed to, 405 *June* 18. Report *June* 21, 479

£117,463 for Uganda, Central and East Africa Protectorates, and Uganda Railway
In Com., Vote Agreed to *June* 24, 545. Report *June* 25, 626

£5 for University of London
In Com., Vote Agreed to, *June* 17, 353. Report *June* 18, 416

Supreme Court of Judicature (Ireland) Act (1877) Amendment Bill
c. In Com., R.P. *July* 5, 1194

Talbot, Lord Edmund, *Sussex, Chichester*
Boarding-out Orders *June* 25, 559; *July* 2, 966
Sculcoates Union *June* 4, 263

Tanner, Dr. C. K. D., *Cork, Mid*
Congested Districts (Scotland) Bill, In Com. *June* 29, 798, 800
Cottage Homes Bill, 2R. *July* 8, 1435
Land Transfer Bill, 2R. *July* 1, 943
Message from the Queen *June* 29, 812
[*cont.*

Tanner, Dr. C. K. D.—*cont.*
National School Teachers, Ireland *June* 21, 430
Naval Hospitals *June* 21, 431
Supply
£3,613 for National Portrait Gallery, Salaries and Expenses *June* 17, 352, 353
£26,247 for Public Works Office, Ireland *July* 9, 1523
£60,672 for Treasury *June* 18, 401

Taunton Gas Bill
Royal Assent *June* 3, 150

Teind Court (Scotland) Bill
c. Withdrawn *June* 30, 851

Templetown, Viscount
Land Legislation, Ireland *July* 5, 1076

Tennant, Mr. H. J., *Berwickshire*
Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill, In Com. *June* 1, 37, 46, 48; *July* 5, 1181, 1182; *July* 8, 1411, 1416, 1417

Thomas, Mr. Abel, *Carmarthenshire, E.*
Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill, In Com. *June* 1, 33, 43, 52; *July* 12, 1669

Thomas, Mr. David A., *Merthyr Tydvil*
Coal Supplies *June* 3, 185
Mines Inspector, South Wales *June* 3, 182
Private Bill Procedure *June* 3, 185
Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill *July* 6, 1228

Thornton, Mr. Percy M., *Clapham*
Bicycle Lights *June* 3, 169
Supply: £60,672 for Treasury *June* 18, 405
Wreck, Indian Troopship, *Warren Hastings* *July* 12, 1589

Thring, Lord
Floods Prevention Bill, 2R. *July* 6, 1197, 1202

Tithe-rent Charge (Ireland)
Earl of Belmore, (*Motion for Address*) 1541; Earl of Mayo, 1550; Earl of Denbigh, 1551; Earl of Erne, 1552; (*Adj.*, 1552) *July* 12

Tollemache, Mr. Henry J., *Cheshire, Eddisbury*
Science and Art School, Nantwich *July* 1, 861

Tomlinson, Mr. W. E. M., *Preston*
Land Transfer Bill, 2R. *July* 1, 944
Plumbers' Registration Bill, *June* 30, 848; *July* 7, 1323
Railway Clearing House Bill *June* 28, 629
Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill, In Com. *June* 1, 61, 84, 86; *June* 2, 139; *July* 5, 1142; *July* 6, 1259, 1266; *July* 8, 1393, 1400, 1409, 1431; *July* 12, 1607, 1626, 1630, 1674

Torquay Corporation Water Bill
Royal Assent *June* 3, 150

TRADE, BOARD OF
President—Mr. C. T. Ritchie
Secretary—Earl of Dudley
Board of Trade
  Department, *Qs.* Mr. Henniker Heaton, Sir C. Dilke; *As.* Mr. A. J. Balfour *June* 3, 184
  Office, Cork, *Q.* Sir T. G. Esmonde; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 9, 1459
Clogher Valley Tramway, *Q.* Mr. G. Murnaghan; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 8, 1348
Cork, Board of Trade Office, *Q.* Sir T. G. Esmonde; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 9, 1459
Electric Lighting (Kensington and Knightsbridge) Company, *Q.* Mr. H. M. Stanley; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *June* 1, 25
Engineering Trade Dispute, *Q.* Mr. E. Robertson; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 8, 1365
Great Northern Railway Company of Ireland, *Q.* Mr. D. Macaleese; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *June* 4, 268. *Q.* Mr. D. Macaleese; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 2, 953
Life Assurance Companies Act, 1870, *Q.* Mr. E. Boulnois; *A* Mr. Hanbury *July* 12, 1596
Metric System, *Q.* Mr. J. Daly; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *June* 29, 733
Metropolitan Railways, Ventilation, *Q.* Mr. J. Caldwell; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 1, 866
Patent Licences, *Q.* Mr. F. Cawley; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 2, 954
Queen's Reign, Naval Review, Overcrowding Steamers, *Qs.* Admiral Field; *As.* Sir Matthew White Ridley, Mr. Ritchie *June* 1, 16
Railway Maps, *Q.* Mr. J. Ellis; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *June* 18, 362
Red Sea Lights, *Q.* Sir. J. Fergusson; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 8, 1349
Regulations of Railways Act 1889, *Q.* Mr. J. Caldwell; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 9, 1460
Smith v. London and South Western Railway Company, *Q.* Mr. J. G. Weir; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *June* 1, 28
Trawlers, Steam, Injury to Brighton Drift Nets, *Q.* Mr. Gerald Loder; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *June* 1, 14
Ventilation, Metropolitan Railways, *Q.* Mr. J. Caldwell; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 1, 866
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Wreck of S.S. Aden
  Gulf of Aden Light, *Q.* Sir J. Fergusson; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 2, 955
  Inquiry, *Q.* Mr. Gibson Bowles; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 1, 875

TREASURY
First Lord—Mr. A. J. Balfour
Patronage Secretary—Sir W. H. Walrond
Financial Secretary—Mr. R. W. Hanbury
Lords Commissioners—Mr. H. T. Anstruther; Mr. W. H. Fisher; Lord Stanley

Tritton, Mr. C. E., *Lambeth, Norwood*
  Lambeth Water Works Company *July* 12, 1599

Trusts (Scotland) Bill
  Royal Assent *June* 3, 150

Tully, Mr. Jasper, *Leitrim, S.*
  Army Pension, Michael Connaughton *June* 1, 23
  Betting Act (1853) Repeal Bill, Intro. *June* 1, 32
  Electric Lighting Acts Amendment Bill, Intro. *June* 1, 32
  Supply
    £7,951 for Local Government Board (Scotland), Salaries and Expenses *June* 25, 589
    £8,111 for Secretary for Scotland Office, Salaries and Expenses *June* 25, 572

Tynemouth Gas Bill
  Royal Assent *June* 3, 150

Ure, Mr. Alexander, *Linlithgow*
  Supply: £19,923 for Temporary Commissions, Salaries and Expenses *June* 18, 382
  Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill *July* 5, 1162

Vaccination (Calf Lymph) Bill
c. Intro., Mr. W. W. Carlile; Read 1° *June* 3, 260

Vehicles (Lights) Bill
c. In Com., R.P. *June* 28, 676

Verminous Persons Bill
c. 3R., Mr. W. Hazell, 1298, 1305, 1309; Mr. J. Lowther, (*Amendt.*) 1298, 1302; Sir F. S. Powell, 1301; Mr. H. Labouchere, 1302, 1307; Mr. Gibson Bowles, 1303, 1308, 1309; Mr. R. Ascroft, 1304; (*Division*, 1306); Mr. H. V. Duncombe, 1306; Mr. T. C. T. Warner, 1306; Mr. T. W. Russell, 1307, 1317; General Laurie, 1307; Mr. M. Austin, 1307; (*Division*, 1307); Mr. J. Caldwell, 1311; Mr. J. C. Flynn, 1314; Mr. Radcliffe Cooke, 1314; Mr. J. Dillon, 1316, 1317; [Mr. Speaker, 1317;] (*Division*, 1318) *July* 7
  Read 3° and Passed *July* 7, 1318
l. Read 1ª *July* 8, 1337

Vincent, Colonel Sir C. E. Howard, *Sheffield, Central*
  Canada, Preferential Tariff *June* 1, 10
  Cocoa Butter *July* 9, 1451
  Colonial Troops in England *July* 5, 1101
  Judicial Trustees Act, 1896 *June* 3, 183
  Queen's Reign, Jubilee Procession *June* 3, 160
  Stationery *June* 1, 24

Voluntary Schools Associations
  Lord Wantage, 1552, 1555, 1558, 1561; Lord Stanmore, 1554, 1555, 1571; Lord Bishop of Oxford, 1560, 1561; Lord Heneage, 1562, 1565; Lord Bishop of Lincoln, 1564, 1565; Earl Spencer, 1567; Lord Archbishop of Canterbury 1569; Duke of Devonshire, 1570, 1571, 1575, 1579; Earl of Kimberley, 1575, 1579 *July* 12
  (For Questions see Education Department).

Volunteers Bill
l. In Com., Marquess of Lansdowne, 1333, 1334, 1335; Earl of Wemyss, 1334 *July* 8
  Standing Com. negatived *July* 8, 1335
  Amendt. Rep. *July* 9, 1451

WALES
  Denbighshire, Tithe Map, Q. Mr. J. H. Roberts; *A.* Mr. H. Chaplin *July* 9, 1456
  Mines Inspector, South Wales, Q. Mr. D. A. Thomas; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *June* 3, 182
  Mynydd-y-Gwair Common, Q. Mr. J. H. Roberts; *A.* Mr. W. Long *June* 3, 165
  Welsh Land Commission, Q. Mr. Lloyd Morgan; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour *July* 12, 1599

WALTON, Mr. J. LAWSON, *Leeds, S.*
  Queen's Bench Case *July* 6, 1224
  Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill, In Com. *June* 1, 54, 55, 73; *June* 3, 247, 248, 250; *July* 5, 1127, 1146, 1147, 1164, 1176; *July* 8, 1402, 1403; *July* 12, 1661, 1662, 1664, 1672

WANKLYN, Mr. JAMES LESLIE, *Bradford, Central*
  Queen's Reign
    Colonial Troops and Provincial Towns *June* 24, 503, 504
    Jubilee Visitors *June* 18, 364
    Naval Review *June* 18, 364, 365
  Wreck, Indian Troopship *Warren Hastings* *July* 2, 967

WANTAGE, Lord
  Voluntary Schools Associations *July* 8, 1337 1339; *July* 12, 1552, 1555, 1558, 1561

WARKWORTH, Lord, *Kensington, S.*
  Education Act, Associations *July* 2, 965

WARNER, Mr. T. COURTENAY T., *Staffordshire, Lichfield*
  Congested Districts (Scotland) Bill, In Com. *June* 29, 794
  Land Transfer Bill, 2R. *July* 1, 943, 944
  Plumbers' Registration Bill *June* 30, 843, 848 *July* 7, 1320, 1322, 1323
  Verminous Persons Bill, 3R. *July* 7, 1306
  Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill *July* 5, 1151; *July* 12, 1622

WAR OFFICE
  Secretary of State—Marquess of LANSDOWNE
  Under Secretary of State—Mr. BRODRICK.
  Financial Secretary—Mr. J. POWELL-WILLIAMS
  (See ARMY)

WARR, Mr. AUGUSTUS F., *Liverpool, East Toxteth*
  Mersey Dock and Harbour Board Bill, 3R. *July* 5, 1089
  Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill *July* 5, 1164

WAYS AND MEANS
  Death Duties, Q. Sir G. Baden-Powell; *A.* Sir M. Hicks Beach *June* 21, 432
  Revenue and Expenditure, Irish Estimates, Q. Mr. T. Lough; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *June* 29, 730

WEBSTER, Mr. R. G., *St. Pancras, E.*
  Derby Day *June* 1, 31
  Monetary Exchanges, British Empire *June* 21, 423

WEBSTER, SIR RICHARD E. (Attorney General) *Isle of Wight*
  Administration of Oaths, England *July* 6, 1223
  British East Africa *June* 3, 183
  Covent Garden Theatre Fund *July* 6, 1223
  Judicial Trustees Act (1896) *June* 3, 183
  Land Transfer Bill, 2R. *July* 1, 936, 940, 943
  London and India Docks Joint Committee *June* 24, 508
  Metropolitan Water Companies Bill, 2R. *June* 28, 663
  Queen's Bench Case *July* 6, 1224
  Recovery of Debts, Married Women *July* 12, 1599
  Slavery in Zanzibar *June* 18, 372; *June* 28, 650
  Supply: £238,212 for Diplomatic and Consular Services *June* 24, 530, 534
  Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill, In Com., *June* 1, 37, 49, 50, 51, 66, 69, 70, 71, 72, 74, 79, 82; *June* 2, 107, 110, 111, 120, 121; *June* 3, 208, 210, 219, 230, 234, 238, 247, 248, 249; *June* 4, 270, 271, 273; *July* 5, 1129, 1132, 1133, 1135, 1138, 1141, 1143, 1145, 1158, 1168, 1174, 1176, 1177, 1178, 1182; *July* 6, 1238, 1239, 1249, 1250, 1255, 1263, 1264, 1271, 1276; *July* 8, 1380, 1387, 1388, 1390, 1391, 1392, 1393, 1394, 1395, 1407, 1409, 1410, 1416, 1418, 1428, 1431, 1433; *July* 12, 1620, 1621, 1623, 1624, 1626, 1641, 1642, 1644, 1647, 1649, 1655, 1656, 1657, 1658, 1659, 1662, 1663, 1664, 1666, 1667, 1668, 1671, 1672, 1673, 1674
  Zanzibar, Slavery in *June* 18, 372; *June* 28, 650

WEDDERBURN, Sir W., Bart., *Banffshire*
  Famine in India *July* 1, 873
  Indian
    Budget *July* 5, 1125
    Railways *June* 24, 502
  Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1894 *June* 24, 502
  Parish Councils (Scotland) (Casual Vacancies) Bill, Intro. *June* 2, 145
  Plague in India *July* 5, 1118
  Poona Outrages *July* 1, 863, 864; *July* 2, 959
  Queen's Reign, Jubilee Expenses *June* 24, 503
  Supply
    £27,323 for Fishery Board, Scotland *June* 25, 574, 580
    £604,933 for Public Education, Scotland *June* 25, 605

Weights and Measures (Metric System) Bill
c. 2R., Mr. Ritchie, 477; Mr. Gibson Bowles, 477 *June* 21
  Read 2° and com. to Standing Com. on Trade, etc. *June* 21, 477
  Read 3° and Passed *July* 8, 1433
l. Read 1ª *July* 9, 1451

Weir, Mr. J. G., *Ross and Cromarty*
  Adjournment of the House *June* 28, 683
  Brennan Torpedoes *July* 5, 1117; *July* 9, 1461
  Congested Districts (Scotland) Bill, 2R. *June* 21, 472; In Com. *June* 29, 795, 798, 800, 802, 803, 807, 809; *July* 1, 931, 932
  Congested Districts (Scotland) Grants *June* 17, 356
  Duty on Herrings *June* 1, 27
  Fishery
    Board, Scottish *June* 3, 168, 169; *June* 17, 287
    Cruisers *June* 1, 23
  Illegal Trawling, Scottish Waters *June* 3, 163; *July* 2, 954
  Land Transfer Bill, 2R. *July* 1, 944
  Machine Guns, Royalties *July* 5, 1118
  Mussel Beds, Clyde *June* 3, 164
  Parish Councils, Scotland *June* 3, 180
  Pensions Commutation Act *June* 1, 28
  Poona Outrages *July* 9, 1461
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    Facilities, Scotland *July* 5, 1116
    Telegraph Office, Scotland *June* 4, 261
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    Establishments *June* 4, 262
    Guide *June* 3, 182
  Scottish Fishery Board *June* 3, 168, 169; *June* 17, 287
  Smith *v.* London and South Western Railway Company *June* 1, 28
  Steamer Communication, Highlands and Islands (Scotland) *July* 2, 956
  Street Disturbances, Dublin *June* 25, 564
  Supply
    £771,000 for Customs Department, Salaries and Expenses; Report *June* 25, 627
    £27,323 for Fishery Board, Scotland *June* 25, 573, 584
    £17,500 for Highlands and Islands of Scotland (Public Works and Communications) *June* 25, 620, 624; Report *June* 29, 791
    £83,566 for Home Office, Salaries and Expenses *June* 18, 412
    £1,721,272 for Inland Revenue Department, Salaries and Expenses; Report *June* 25, 627
    £7,951 for Local Government Board (Scotland), Salaries and Expenses *June* 25, 586
    £630,291 for National Education, Ireland; Report *July* 5, 1186
    £2,000 for National Gallery, Scotland *June* 25, 619
    £604,933 for Public Education, Scotland: Report *June* 29, 789
    £8,111 for Secretary for Scotland Office, Salaries and Expenses *June* 25, 568, 572: Report *June* 29, 788
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    £60,672 for Treasury *June* 18, 400
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Welby, Colonel A. C. Earle-, *Taunton*
  Aldershot Review *July* 8, 1343
  Westminster Hall, Statuary *July* 2, 960

Wemyss and March, Earl of
  Market Gardeners' Compensation (Scotland) Bill, 3R. *July* 8, 1336
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Weymouth Gas Bill
  Royal Assent *June* 3, 150

Whiteley, Mr. G., *Stockport*
  Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill, In Com. *June* 1, 81, 82; *June* 3, 229, 249; *July* 6, 1237, 1242

Whiting's Patent Bill
  Royal Assent *June* 3, 150

Whittaker, Mr. T. P., *Yorkshire, W.R., Spen Valley*
  Drunkenness, Stratford *June* 1, 22
  Finance Bill, In Com. *June* 3, 252; *June* 29, 766
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Wigan Junction Railways Bill
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Williams, Colonel Robert, *Dorset, W.*
  Inclosure Acts Amendment Bill, Intro. *July* 6, 1225

Williams, Mr. J. Carvell, *Nottinghamshire, Mansfield*
  Business of the House, General *June* 3, 186; *June* 17, 289
  Church Catechism, North Mundham Board School *June* 28, 640
  Extraordinary Tithe Bill, In Com. *June* 4, 283
  Supply: £4,306,910 for Public Education, England and Wales *June* 17, 311, 318, 337
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  Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill, In Com. *June* 1, 80; *July* 12, 1671

WILLIAMS, Mr. J. POWELL (Financial Secretary to the War Office), *Birmingham, S.*
  Army
    Clothing Department *June* 18, 363
    Deferred Pensions *June* 25, 560
    Forage Supplies, Ireland *July* 8, 1357
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      Smith (Owen) *July* 6, 1211
  Artillery Practice, Dartmoor *June* 1, 19, 20
  Brennan Torpedo *July* 1, 860; *July* 5, 1117
  Machine Guns *July* 1, 861; *July* 5, 1118
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Wills, Sir W. H., Bart., *Bristol, E.*
  Queen's Reign, Jubilee Procession *June* 17, 286

Wilson, Mr. F. W., *Norfolk, Mid*
- Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill *July* 8, 1411

Wilson, Mr. H. J., *Yorkshire, W.R., Holmfirth*
- Departmental Appointments, India *June* 25, 659
- Education, India *June* 18, 370

Wilson, Mr. John, *Durham, Mid*
- Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill, In Com. *June* 1, 54, 64, 78, 79, 88, 89; *June* 2, 101, 123; *June* 3, 214, 218, 219, 220, 222, 230, 241, 246, 248, 250; *July* 5, 1131, 1159; *July* 6, 1231, 1233, 1249, 1254, 1258, 1265, 1270, 1276; *July* 8, 1388, 1397; *July* 12, 1615, 1623, 1626, 1633, 1639, 1644, 1650

Wilson, Mr. John, *Falkirk Burghs*
- Airdrie Volunteers *June* 3, 173
- Board Schools (Scotland) *July* 5, 1113
- Supply: £604,933 for Public Education, Scotland *June* 25, 604, 618
- Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill, In Com. *June* 1, 64, 89; *June* 3, 210, 224; *July* 5, 1161; *July* 6, 1234, 1253, 1266; *July* 8, 1380, 1390; *July* 12, 1604, 1659, 1671, 1674

Wilson, Mr. John, *Lanarkshire, Govan*
- Plumbers' Registration Bill *June* 30, 836
- Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill *July* 8, 1423

Wilson, Mr. John William, *Worcestershire, N.*
- Muzzling Orders *July* 8, 1349
- Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill, In Com. *June* 2, 109; *June* 3, 221, 231; *July* 12, 1658

Winchester, Lord Bishop of *(Dr. Randall Thomas Davidson)*
- Sunday Bill, 2R. *June* 29, 699, 702

Wingfield-Digby, Mr. J. K., *Dorset, N.*
- Voluntary Schools *June* 18, 371

Wolff, Mr. G. W., *Belfast, W.*
- Education Endowments (Ireland) Act (1885) Amendment Bill, In Com. *June* 28, 680
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- Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill, In Com. *June* 1, 41, 65; *June* 4, 272, 274; *July* 5, 1152; *July* 6, 1257, 1277; *July* 8, 1424

Woodall, Mr. William, *Hanley*
- Plumbers' Registration Bill *June* 21, 428; *July* 5, 1115
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  - £7,434 for National Gallery *June* 17, 352
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- *Hyde Park and St. James's Park Footpaths, Qs.* Sir H. Fowler; *As.* Mr. Akers-Douglas *June* 29, 743
- *Kew Gardens, Q.* Mr. A. Billson; *A.* Mr Akers-Douglas *June* 28, 631
- *Magnetic Observatory, Greenwich, Q.* Lord Hugh Cecil; *A.* Mr. Akers-Douglas *June* 1, 30
- *St. James's Park and Hyde Park Footpaths, Qs.* Sir H. Fowler; *As.* Mr. Akers-Douglas *June* 29, 743
- *Westminster Hall*
  - *Queen's Reign, Qs.* Sir J. Leng; *As.* Mr. Akers-Douglas *June* 1, 16; *June* 3, 157
  - *Statuary, Q.* Colonel Welby; *A.* Mr. Akers-Douglas *July* 2, 960

Woods, Mr. Samuel, *Essex, Walthamstow*
- Distributing Offensive Leaflets *July* 5, 1107
- Factory Inspectors' Assistants *June* 1, 11
- Post Office Establishments *June* 1, 8; *July* 5, 1106
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Workmen (Compensation for Accidents) Bill

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END OF VOLUME L., AND SIXTH VOLUME OF SESSION 1897.

WATERLOW & SONS LIMITED, PRINTERS, LONDON WALL, LONDON.